



PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN



Tri

Ye Olde TOWNSMAN Valley

"The Best Journal Published by a Dam Site!"

VOL. 21 NO. 3 GRAHAMSVILLE, NY 12740 JANUARY 16, 2025

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Knarf's Classic Movie & Trivia Pg 64

Tri-Valley Lions Community Service and Achievement Award Winners attend Tri-Valley Lions Dinner Meeting on Jan 6 and Daniel Pierce Library receives \$600 award from Tri-Valley Lions from this year's Pumpkin Party at the Fairgrounds

Three of the five Tri-Valley High School Graduates who were awarded the Tri-Valley Lions Community Service and Achievement Awards back in June, attended the Tri-Valley Lions Dinner Meeting at Casa Mia on Monday, January 6th 2025. Those that attended from left to right (below) are Emily Rusin who is attending

SUNY Buffalo, Lily Siciliano who is attending University of Vermont, and Amelia Mickelson who is attending Roberts Wesleyan College. Not pictured are Craig Costa who is attending Campbell University and Abigail Mentnech who is attending University of Virginia.



Lions Leah Exner, Claire Rennison and award winners left to right: Amelia Mickelson, Abigail Mentnech, Craig Costa, Emily Rusin, and Lily Siciliano

The Tri-Valley Lions Award Committee chaired by Lion Leah Exner with Lion members Claire Rennison, Stu Wizwer, Bonnie Lewis, Pat Menje, and Lauree Novogrodsky approved 5 Tri-Valley High School graduates to receive our Tri-Valley School Community Service and Achievement Awards in the amount of \$500 each. Students receiving these awards were recognized at a Senior Celebration Ceremony at the School on June 13, 2024. (Contd. Pg. 4)



Left to right: Emily Rusin, Lily Siciliano, Amelia Mickelson

YE OLDE TRI-VALLEY TOWNSMAN

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER FOR
THE TOWN OF DENNING AND
THE TOWN OF NEVERSINK

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LETTERS TO THE EDITORS:**

1. **ALL submissions** should be typewritten or in Microsoft Word.
2. Letters should contain no more than 300 words and must be typewritten. They may be emailed as Microsoft Word documents.
3. Letters should offer worthwhile comments and avoid libel or bad taste.
4. Letters must be signed with the writer's own name. No letter will be published without a signature.
5. The writer must provide his/her full name, address and telephone number (for verification). This information will be kept on file in the Gnome Home Inc. office. Telephone numbers will not be published.
6. Copies of letters or third-party letters will not be accepted.

Opinions expressed in *Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman* belong to the writers and are not necessarily the viewpoint of *Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman* or its staff.

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Deadline for all submissions is 3:00 p.m. Monday for the current week's issue

NO EXCEPTIONS. All press releases/articles sent by email should be sent as **Microsoft Word Documents**. Photos or graphics must be in jpg or pdf format

More than ever, thank you for your continued support.

On the Front Burner: The bloodthirsty hate the upright;
but the just seek his soul. Proverbs 29:10

DAYS OF YORE...

Today's History

January 20, 1965

As part of a continuing program of bridge improvement in the Town of Neversink, Joseph Raffa, Town Supervisor, announced today that the Sullivan County Highway Dept. will construct a new bridge across the Sundown stream leading to the East Mountain Road. Test borings are now being made, and the new bridge is scheduled for completion in 1965 at an estimated cost of \$90,000.

The engagement of Miss Sally Augusta Lyons to James M. Bonnell Jr. has been announced by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. James G. Lyons Sr. of Monticello. Her fiancé is the son of Mrs. James M. Bonnell of Bradley. Miss Lyons attended Monticello High School and Mohawk Valley Institute, and is employed by the National Union Bank of Monticello. Her fiancé is employed by the New York State Dept. of Corrections.

January 15, 1975

Miss Becky White, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles White of Frost Valley, recently became the recipient of the New York State PTA Art Award. Becky's entry was one of five winners in the project area of visual arts.

January 17, 1985

Dorothy Kowalik of Riverside Drive, Woodbourne, died Thursday, Jan. 10 in the Imogene Bassett Hospital, Cooperstown after a long illness. She was 65. The daughter of the late Norman and Nora Keator Burton, she was born March 23, 1919 in New York City. She was the widow of Matthew Kowalik. Survivors include three sons: Stanley of New Paltz, Norman and Richard both of Woodbourne.

Navy Seaman Recruit Gary Frear, son of Linda Zanetti of Grahamsville, has completed recruit training at the Navy Recruit Command Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Illinois. The 1984 graduate of TVCS joins the Navy in October, 1983.

January 26, 1995

A sad week in our extended Tri-Valley community, with so many of our families feeling the loss of a friend or loved one.

John Murphy of Grahamsville, a retired correction officer at Woodbourne Correctional Facility died Friday, January 20.

Elton E. Hynson of Grahamsville, a truck driver and mechanic for Luzon Oil Inc. passed away on January 21.

Food to hear the Cliff Hewlett and Clarice Herrmann are home from the hospital.

Helen Aldrich was also in the hospital and came home on Monday (the 23). Best wishes for recovery for all.

Congratulations to Kathi Smith of Neversink, one of 14 Patient advocates at Community General honored for her recent work.

The old-fashioned Ice Harvest at Frost Valley was cancelled due to the unseasonably warm weather.

News from Grahamsville Post Office: *The Townsman* is a very special publication. Each week a dedicated staff of volunteers assemble to gather stories, news, ads and assorted potpourri to publish and distribute to its subscribers. Since the very beginning of this country, when Ben Franklin was Postmaster General, newspapers, pamphlets and magazines have played a vital role in shaping our nation's history and economy.

Senator Charles D. Cook announced that he has directed the staff of the Commission of Rural Resources, which he is Chairman, to develop legislation that would encourage the development of home occupations in rural areas of the State.

He pointed out that modern technology permits workers to undertake more productive work in the home. Present antiquated statues either prohibit such work or impede the legal user of the home as a place of employment.

He said, "Work in the home has increased nationally. There are an estimated 12 million home-business owners in the nation. A report prepared by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Oswego County noted that home based employment can be a vital economic link to the survival of some households and communities.

LOOKING BACK

by Beatrice Akerley
Published January 26, 1995

Where is the snow?

The beautiful sun shining on the ice glistening on the trees is a reminder that winter is here. As I sit here by my kitchen table looking out the glass door I can see the blue jays working so happily on the bread crumbs we put out in our flower boxed on the porch. This is a reminder that winter is moving ahead.

Now how's that for putting some warmth into our January day?

Some of my happiest memories of the good old days are closely tied to winter. Woolly itchy underwear, long button-up-the-side leggings, mittens, scarves, tam-o-shanters, shoe rubbers, evenings sitting in front of a wood stove as the wind blows down our chimney, sending little sparks shooting out from the front of the stove, and I move back just a little to keep my flannel dress from catching on fire... As the lamps are lighted the window shades are pulled down. These are on rollers and can be rolled swiftly to the top again with just a flip of the finger. "Good old days" - I can recall Mother sitting by the stove in her rocking chair reading "Illustrated Companion," and Dad sitting on the opposite side of the stove helping one of us kids with homework or playing a game with them. When this became a little boring Mother would put the tea pot on as Dad headed for the cellar to bring up a pan of apples. Friends often dropped in and children were sent up to bed early, always with good night kisses and hugs.

We had no radio or T.V. to tell us what the weather would be. Our "Dr. Jaynes Almanac" helped a little, but there was nothing like a snowfall to put a little excitement in a winter morning, when I could bring out my sled and ride all the way to school. That slope was thick, deep and long. From our home on top of the slope I could see our teacher come to the school house door to ring the bell, and I usually made it to school just in time to follow her inside. This was before school buses were even thought about, and children quite often made their own paths to school, wading through snow waist deep, and horses were used in plowing snow from roads.

How often I think of those horse-drawn sleighs through the postcard winters of yesterdays.

Household Hint:

Dont' Throw Away those Old Credit Cards

Old credit cards make great scrapers - perfect for getting spilled food off the floor, and stubborn stuff that doesn't wipe easily off counters, like spilled pancake batter. Also try them for scraping the inside of the microwave, and for scraping baking sheets.

Nature Column - L. Comando

A tribute to the memory of all of the Townsman Ladies that we have loved so much and lost... Peggy DeWire, Avril Pappa, Joan Hall, Polly Hill, Joyce Lockhart, Jean Helthaler, Karen Curry, Barbara Slater, Shirley Davis, Hulda Vernooy and Carolyn Coombe.

Not All 'Snowbirds' Went South

Last week while heading out to do some shopping, a flock of Junco literally startled me. About 25 or more took off en masse!

Juncos (*Junco hyemalis*) are of the sparrow species and members of the finch family, Fringillidae.

Adults generally have gray heads, necks, and breasts, gray or brown backs and wings, and a white belly. The white outer tail feathers flash distinctively in flight and while hopping on the ground. The bill is usually pale pinkish.

When flocks of Dark-Eyed Juncos join together for the winter, they use their social rank for protection. The dominant birds stay in the center of the flock of 10 to 30 birds where they are protected from predators. First are the oldest males, surrounded by the young males, then the oldest females, and finally the young females! They keep their place in the flock by using displays of dominance that includes aggressive lunges, and flashing their white tail feathers.

These lively winter birds have their own ways of keeping warm during long chilly winter nights. They sleep in dense evergreen trees or burrow their way into a hay-stack. Then all night long they perch first on one foot and then on the other, so that four little toes are always tucked under downy feathers.

Once morning comes, you will find them at the bird feeders, or flitting along the ground looking for feed that has fallen.

Males tend to have darker, more conspicuous markings than the females. The dark-eyed junco is 5 to 6.9 in long and has a wingspan of 7.1 to 9.8 in and weighs from 0.63 to 1.06 oz. Juveniles often have pale streaks and may even be mistaken for vesper sparrows until they acquire adult plumage at 2 to 3 months. In the Catskills you may never get the chance to see the youngsters, as most young are hatched far away in the wilds of Canada or Alaska during the summer months.

During courtship the juncos will hop about with their wings drooped and their tails fanned, displaying the outer white feathers. The male sings softly from a branch to woo his lady love. The female builds her nest in a shallow depression, with foliage as protection. She will lay 2 clutches of 3-6 eggs and will incubate the eggs. Nestlings are fed regurgitated insects by both parents. The nestlings grow quickly and they are able to leave the nest a few days before they can fly.

If you are able to watch them up close you will see them use their tiny pink beaks to crush the seeds in true 'sparrow style', rolling them over and over in their beaks until the shells are soft enough to crack.

A poet described a little Junco, "Dark winter skies above and white snow below."

With their outer tail feathers also white, the air becomes alive with the contrasting white streaks against their dark feathers as the birds bounce and dart from one bush to another announcing that winter weather is in the forecast.



Tri-Valley Lions Community Service and Achievement Award Winners attend Tri-Valley Lions Dinner Meeting on Jan 6 and Daniel Pierce Library receives \$600 award from Tri-Valley Lions from this year's Pumpkin Party at the Fairgrounds



Left to right Lions Pat Menje, Students Emily Rusin, Lily Siciliano, Lion Claire Rennison, Student Amelia Mickelson, Lions Stu Wizwer and Stephen Miller.



Lions Leah Exner and Claire Rennison acknowledging service and achievement awards to Tri-Valley Students

(From Pg. 1) Congratulations to these wonderful students who spent so much of their time assisting with community tasks and services.

Each student submitted applications and essays of their service to the community and their scholastic achievements which were reviewed by the Award Committee. As Lion Director Claire Rennison stated "each one of the students submitted compelling documentation of their academic achievements and hours of community service and it was difficult to select just one of the students" so The Tri-Valley Lions approved all five students for receipt of awards. We wish all five of these students a successful future and hope that one day they will join The Tri-Valley Lions Club as members.

On January 9, 2025, Lions Mike & Paula Ryan and Esta Jacob awarded a \$600 check to Cathy Russo and Mikki Greene of the Daniel Pierce Library. Annually, the Tri-Valley Lions present a check to The Daniel Pierce Library from profits taken in from The Lions Soda Booth during the Pumpkin Party at the Fairgrounds. The Library uses these funds for special projects and to enhance already amazing programs they present to all residents and participants in our community. The Tri-Valley Lions and The Daniel Pierce Library have been close partners for many, many years and are proud to be able to further support and enrich our community with a wonderful space to further the education of children and adults alike.

Additionally, The Tri-Valley Lions presented \$500 checks each to five local church food pantries to help feed those in our community in need. This is done on an annual basis, and last year we were able to present \$1000 each to the five church food pantries based on our ability to secure a grant to increase the donation.

The Tri-Valley Lions, which was chartered in 1977, is now in our 48th year of existence, and we are always looking for new members. Just as a reminder, The Tri-Valley Lions bring in donations and funding by selling sodas from our Soda Booth for events at the Grahamsville Fairgrounds, selling Chocolate Easter Bunnies, our Annual Journey for Sight Walk and Tag Day. Our funding allows us to continue to provide monetary and service support to Local Food Pantries, Tri-Valley School Community Service and Achievement Awards, Children's Eye Screenings, support for Diabetes, Lymphoma and Leukemia organizations, childhood cancer, WSUL Heart-A-Thon, Guiding Eyes for The Blind, and so much more. If you are interested in joining the Tri-Valley Lions or getting more information about our club, please contact Membership Chair, Pat Menje at 917-783-6253 or hvacpat69@gmail.com or President Stephen Miller at 845-798-1981 or sgrecords@hvc.rr.com



Left to right Cathy Russo Interim Operations Manager Daniel Pierce Library, Lions Mike & Paula Ryan, Esta Jacob & Mikki Greene, Long-time director of Daniel Pierce Library.

Wishing one and all a happy, HEALTHY, and prosperous New Year. Stay well and safe.

Monticello Kiwanis Welcomes Black Library Co-Founders

Douglas “DJ” Shindler and Michael Davis, artists, photographers and co-founders of The Black Library, were very interesting and informative guest speakers at a recent Monticello Kiwanis Meeting. The Black Library is located at the former Key Bank Building at 418 Broadway in Monticello and they welcome local residents and visitors of all backgrounds and promote greater understanding of Black history and culture. They exhibit a diverse collection of works by Black authors, artists and designers and offer educational workshops for children and adults as well as hosting talks and community discussions. Everyone in attendance was very impressed with all the accomplishments of the Black Library during the short time it has been in existence and look forward to personally visiting and enjoying all the exhibits and learning more about the Black History and Culture. The Monticello Kiwanis Club thanked the speakers and donated \$200 in support of the Library's continuing success.

The club meets the first Monday of the Month at 6:00 PM at Albella's Restaurant in Monticello.

Please check out their Monticello NY Kiwanis Club Facebook page to learn more about all their activities.



Kiwanis Pres. Marvin Rappaport, Black Library Co-founders Michael Davis and DJ Shindler and Kiwanis Board member Linda Barriger.

Grahamsville Rod and Gun Club



Contest”. She is 19 years old. Her prize was a beautiful “Buck Knife” donated by the Club.

“There was a spirited discussion about several hunters' dogs running coyotes. It used to be that there were Coyote Hunts with large prizes given to the biggest coyote shot. Some city hunters mistakenly shot a moose.

But apparent non-hunters put a stop to the killing contest, and in the snowy cold winter the coyotes ravaged the wildlife. Deer couldn't run. Now with the winter hunters leading hunting dogs, many townsfolk have reported the reappearance of rabbits, partridges, squirrels and birds.

Three new members were sworn in the Grahamsville Rod and Gun Club. Undersheriff Eric Chaboty led the induction ceremony with his wife, Tammi Chaboty, his daughter, Savannah Chaboty, and his son, Wyatt Chaboty. All 3 were well qualified. All are Endowment Members of the National Rifle Association and Life Members of the New York State Rifle and Pistol Association.

The Grahamsville Rod and Gun Club held their Christmas/New Year meeting on January 2, 2025 at the “Grahamsville” First Aid Squad Building with about 25 members and 3 new members sworn in. Elections of officers for 2025 were held.

The Towns of Neversink and Denning were well represented this year in the Big Buck Hunting Contest. The Sullivan County Democrat pictured several prized trophies from the hills of Denning and Neversink up through the Peekamoose and Catskill Game Preserve. Several prized racks were displayed at the meeting.

Member JAYDEN SIEGLAR won the Grahamsville Rod and Gun Club “Big Buck



Just in case you're wondering, we'll be re-running some of our best and most popular book reviews. They will be described as our *Legacy Mysterious Book Reports*. Send us a quick request if you have a favorite that you'd like to see again and we'll do our best to re-publish it.

The Yards Book Report No. 472

by John Dwaine McKenna

Mysterious Book Report No. 402

Published January 20, 2022



Told from three alternating points of view, *The Yards*, (Mysterious Press, \$25.95, 308 pages, ISBN 978-1-61316-235-4), by A.F. Carter, is hard-boiled crime fiction at its best. It takes place in the imaginary mid-western city of Baxter, where the last of four meat-packing plants is on the skids and failing. Its closure will leave the already troubled area where crime is rampant and the citizenry ravaged by poverty and drug-addiction, hopeless and destitute. That's where we meet Git, the first narrator, and a tough, single mom who grew up on the 'other side of the tracks' in a place locals call The Yards . . . where the poorest of the poor live. Her full name is Bridget O'Rourke, and she's out for a hard-earned —and scarce —night on the town, where she's hoping for some short-term male company. She hooks up at a local bar with a guy named Brad Grieg and they head to a local motel for a quick bit of woof-woof and be gone that doesn't turn out so well.

When Brad, who's a heroin addict and a gopher for a local crime prince, (named Connor Schmidt, the second narrator), is found the next morning, shot dead and \$18,000 in cash missing . . . a Baxter PD Lieutenant and the lead investigator . . . a woman named Delia Mariola (the third narrator) is on the hunt for the killer. And that's only the first 75 pages of this fast-paced and well plotted yarn. As the story is told and the details become known, readers will almost smell the desperation, feel the grinding poverty and somehow, still retain a hopeful spark of redemption in this outstanding noir thriller. It's many twists and turns come fast, unexpected and often . . . riveting your eyes to the page. It's killer !!

Like the review? Let your friends know, *You saw it in the Mysterious Book Report*, because the greatest compliment you can give is to share our work with others.

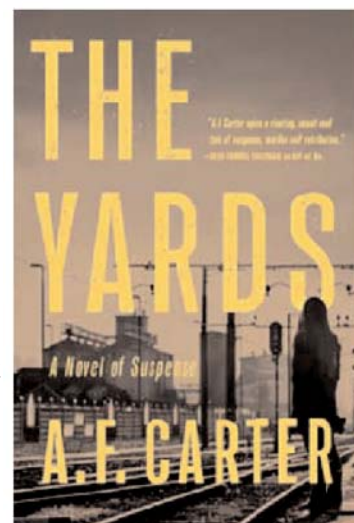
Check out our combined website that's simple to use and easy as pie to leave your comments. We're looking forward to hearing from all of you.

<http://Johndwainemckenna.com>

OR

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Thank You!



**John Dwaine McKenna's Books
are now available at the
NEVERSINK GENERAL STORE**



The Olive Jar

by Carol Olsen LaMonda

Bundle Up

Where is that January Thaw?

For about a week now the temperature has been in low range that every weather forecaster follows up with “And with the wind-chill factor, it will feel like zero or below.”

Yes, it is winter, and YES, IT IS COLD out there. As I sit in my easy chair near the woodstove with a rack of seasoned oak and an oil tank just filled this morning, I am as



comfort-

able as can be. I don't have to leave the house except to take Hudson out for his walks. Even he gets right down to business and heads back to the warmth of the house.

Yet, I feel for the world around me. The states below us are getting a swarth of snow that they are unequipped to handle; California is fighting catastrophic wild fires; Tibet had a devastating earthquake; the Gulf coast and islands get hammered by stronger hurricanes, and poor and homeless people are struggling to survive. I guess you could say I am feeling a bit of “survivor's guilt” for living as a middle-class citizen of the Hudson Valley.

Global Warming and Climate Change are upon us with weather scenarios that are unexpected and frightening. We obviously need to do something differently. Last year was the warmest in recorded weather history.

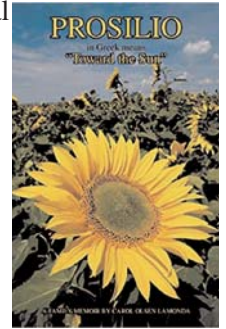
As I sit contentedly here, I see a future of adaptability. Insanity is defined as doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result. Time to do something, but what?

Seeing no magic wand to correct Mother Nature, we need to do a jig-saw puzzle barrage of conservation moves: less fossil fuel (although I am adoring my oil burner right now), more re-cycling, less packaging, more conserving, more repairing rather than replacing, and desalinating sea water for drinking (like Aruba does). We need to use the sun and wind to our advantage. We need to carpool. We need to re-use and recycle.

And we must do it together. My favorite saying is, “alone I am a drop of water; together we are an ocean.”

The FamilyMemoir, PROSILIO...

... in Greek means "**Toward the Sun**," was written by Carol Olsen LaMonda. Carol writes the column "The Olive Jar" for *Ye Olde Tri-Valley Townsman*. This local author has been busy guesting at book clubs who have chosen this local memoir as their book choice. **Feel the warmth of “Prosilio” as you read Carol’s memoirs cuddled up in your favorite chair. It also makes a great gift!** *Prosilio* is available at Amazon or Barnes and Noble on-line as a soft or hard cover or as a downloadable e-book for Nook or Kindle. Go to: <http://amazon.com> or <http://barnesandnoble.com> and type in **Prosilio** in the search to order your copy of **Prosilio**



Celebrate Take Your Child to the Library Day at the DPL

By Lisa Carroll

GRAHAMSVILLE-Bring your little ones to the Daniel Pierce Library on Wednesday, January 29 from 10AM to 4PM in celebration of Take Your Child to the Library Day. It's sure to be a great time!

We'll be celebrating the nationally recognized day with interactive activities, lots of good books and plenty of fun! Take Your Child to the Library Day was first introduced in 2011 by Nadine Lipman, a retired librarian from Connecticut. It was her intention to set aside a day where children and their families could explore their local library to learn about the resources available to them, the special events and programs offered and of course, shine a light on all the great books to be read.

Coming to our Take Your Child to the Library Day is the perfect opportunity to ignite your child's love of reading, to heighten their imagination and to foster a life-long appreciation for their local library. We have many new children's books on display as well as a plethora of picture books, early chapter books, novels and non-fiction books available for checkout. If it's your first time on our children's floor, you may be surprised to see all the different play areas (like the puppet stage, doll houses, fire station and train set) guaranteed to grab your little one's attention. Oh, and you can meet Danny, our very large DPL bear hiding out by the LEGO books. He loves being read to! While you're here, please take the opportunity to register your child for one of our Spring Children's Programs. We offer three programs: Mother Goose, Toddler Time and Story Hour, for children 12 months to 3,4 and 5 years old respectively. More information regarding each program will be available at the desk.

We will also be kicking off our Valentine's Day Card Event during Take Your Child to the Library Day. Last year, children in our community made over 186 cards for residents at Achieve Rehab and Nursing Facility in Liberty. This year, we need a minimum of 130 cards so that every resident gets a special valentine. Tri-Valley Secondary School agriculture classes under Ms. Tara Berescik Burke will also be donating a carnation flower to each resident to make the holiday even more special. DIY Valentine's Day card supplies will be available (while supplies last) during Take Your Child to the Library Day, however you can also use your own supplies to make beautiful, creative cards. Completed cards must be returned to the library (put into the red box in the library foyer) by 3PM on Wednesday, February 12 to be included in our special delivery.



ed-one returns, one doesn't-and the ensuing plot twists and turns the characters are forced to take as the story develops. I'm about halfway through and have had to repeatedly stop myself from skimming the last pages to see if the outcome is what I think it will be. It's the first Donlea book I've read, but it certainly won't be the last!



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"If it grows by day, have it cut & split by Knight"

In other news, we'd like to extend a huge "thank you" to the Tri-Valley Lions Club for their donation of \$600 to the library on Friday, January 10, for which we are incredibly grateful. Each year, the Lions Club graciously donates proceeds from their beverage sales during the Giant Pumpkin Party to the library, making it possible for us to continue offering our excellent services and programs throughout the year. We're so honored to be part of such a supportive community. Thank you!

In addition, this week we're offering a winter DVD blow-out sale on both the adult and children's floors. Each DVD is \$1.00. There are many to choose from, but come early to get the best selection. Once they're gone, they're gone.

This past weekend I stepped out of my comfort zone and started reading *The Girl Who Was Taken* by Charlie Donlea. It's a gripping psychological thriller about two high school girls who are abduct-



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At The Art's Nest...

Beat the Devil

Saturday Jan 18, 2025 from 6-8pm

Doors open 5pm | Admission \$20

Beat the Devil are Doug Rogers (vocals, guitar, piano, accordion, writer), Annie Hat (vocals, bass, percussion, writer), Dave Milner (vocals, bass, guitar, writer), and Pam Arnold (drums and possibly banjo).

Beat the Devil is an eclectic, dirty, funky, country, bluesy folk band, voted River Reporter's best band three times.

Arts Nest offers a large variety of entertainment year-round in a comfortable, friendly setting - a fun place for serious artists. Come with your friends, take a table, have a few drinks, while enjoying the performances.

Lisa and Randy Light

Saturday Jan 25, 2025 from 6-8pm

Doors open 5pm | Admission \$20

Lucky Penny is Lisa Light aka El Elle's second full-length album.

The album artwork features a much-memed photograph by David Henry Williams, entitled "Tiny Dancer" taken in 1984 in New Orleans of Lisa and Randy busking on the street. This photograph is featured in several museums in the Southeast. Having been raised by two musicians, this album is truly a full circle homage to the importance of music to the Light family.

This collection is a diary of Lisa's journey of uprooting from Oakland, CA in 2020 to the east coast to care for her mother for the last years of her life battling cancer. Along the way, she invited her father, Randy to join in the songwriting, and eventual recording of this highly emotional material. This album is entirely organic with simple, classic instrumentation and deeply thoughtful and subtle grace.

Multi-instrumental singer songwriter duo Sara Hulse & Jesse Mower are set to bring to the stage a combination of original and traditional material, showcasing each performer's unique songwriting style while paying homage to some of their favorite timeless folk songs of the past. The duo is known for their charming chemistry on stage, displaying an impressive level of musicianship upon multiple instruments as they trade off leading songs and accompanying each other.

Sara Hulse, a Sullivan County native, is no stranger to the Catskills music scene. With a captivating vocal ability and undeniable rhythm she got her start in the area's vibrant music scene. Sara brings to the stage a wealth of musicianship, performing on two ukulele's, utilizing different tunings, as well as the guitar and bass, all while leading songs and providing harmony vocals to accompany Jesse when he leads.

Jesse Mower, dubbed "Your Friendly Neighborhood Guitar Slinger", hales from Northeast Pennsylvania, and is most known for his work on the electric guitar with NEPA powertrios Static in the Attic and Greenfield III. Mower's acoustic guitar style is somewhat newfound, finding his love for folk and traditional music only a few years ago thanks to Hulse. Mower displays a unique "gumbo" of guitar techniques, trying his hands at flatpicking and utilizing a capo for many songs, while borrowing and adapting many electric-guitar licks and tricks. Together the duo leaves audiences with an unforgettable musical experience that showcases both of their unique styles, built by their wide range of influences. Don't miss your chance to enjoy a dynamic performance by Sara & Jesse February 15th at The Arts Nest in Lake Huntington!

Lisa Light; Producer, Violin, Vocals, Synths, Composer,
Randy Light: Electric Guitar, Backup Vocals, Composer

SCDW Casting Call

One of the highlights of the SCDW 2025 season will be "Sister Act" - a musical comedy based on the hit 1992 film of the same name. The Sullivan County Dramatic Workshop is looking to cast this musical comedy.

When disco diva, Deloris Van Cartier, witnesses a murder, she is put in protective custody in the one place the cops are sure she won't be found: a convent! Disguised as a nun, she finds herself at odds with both the rigid lifestyle and uptight Mother Superior. Using her unique disco moves and singing talent to inspire the choir, Deloris breathes new life into the church and community but, in doing so, blows her cover. Soon, the gang is giving chase, only to find them up against Deloris and the power of her newly found sisterhood.

Auditions in person will be on Saturday, February 1st, from 1:00 to 5:00pm at the Fallsburg Senior Center, Laurel Avenue, South Fallsburg. Callbacks will be on Sunday, February 2nd, 1:00 - 4:00pm. Please be prepared to stay for the entire callback.

There are 8 female singing roles - ages 25-70: 8 male singing roles - ages 25-60. All vocal ranges are present. Plus, ensemble nuns, bar denizens, homeless people; fantasy dancers.

Production dates, at the Rivoli Theatre, are June 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22. Rehearsals will begin on Saturday, March 1st, and on Saturdays through March at the senior center in South Fallsburg. April and May rehearsals TBD.

This production will be directed by Alexis Costa with Musical Director Amy Phillips and Stage Manager Amber Schmidt. The Sullivan County Dramatic Workshop is an all-volunteer, 501(c) 3 organization committed to giving opportunities to performers of all backgrounds and ethnicities.

For further information: Alexis Costa at alexiscosta720@gmail.com, Amy Phillips at amyrun@gmail.com, or Amber Schmidt at schmidad@gmail.com.

SCDW Calling local Directors:

Sullivan County Dramatic Workshop's 2025 Season promises to be an outstanding collection of comedy, music, drama and just plain good entertainment. The SCDW is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing and promoting quality theatre for the community. Everyone who lends their talents to present our 2025 Season is a volunteer.

In May, the "SCDW's plays in Development Series" will offer local playwrights a chance to see their work and directors will be needed for those performances. In June, the fabulous and funny "Sister Act" will be staged. A Director with musical experience is needed. July's offering is "The Odd Couple (Female Version)", the hilarious, contemporary comic classic by Neil Simon. If you have directed in the past and would like to have the opportunity to sharpen your skills, work with local talented actors, meet similarly devoted folks, this is an opportunity you shouldn't miss!

Contact Eileen: ekalter@hvc.rr.com or 845-798-9854 for further information.

SCDW Seeks Local Playwrights

The Sullivan County Dramatic Workshop is seeking 10 minute, one act, and/or excerpts from full length plays for its "Plays in Development" series to be staged in May. The SCDW is focused on showcasing only local playwrights from Sullivan, Orange and Ulster Counties. Pieces that are chosen may be directed by the author (or a director of their choosing) or one of SCDW's resident directors. Auditions will be held at the historic Rivoli Theatre in South Fallsburg sometime in March. The deadline for submission is February 18. The plan is for minimally staged readings to be presented in May with audience feedback for the authors, directors and actors. Several of the plays will then be chosen for fuller productions in September. This will be based on both audience feedback and that of the producers, in conjunction with SCDW's Board of Directors.

If interested in submitting a piece, please send a PDF with a cover letter including a short author bio to Jean Eifert jeaneifert334@gmail.com or Peter Nastasi Peternastasi1@verizon.net.

Two-Headed Trout Season Begins with Award Nominations!

Though it is hard to believe, the 64th Annual Two-Headed Trout Dinner is just around the corner! The theme of this year's dinner is "Celebrate Roscoe," and there will be many opportunities for you to do just that in the coming weeks, culminating with our dinner on Saturday, April 5th (save the date!) In the meantime, we invite you to celebrate a local Roscoe hero by nominating a person, business, or organization for the 2025 Golden Trout Community Service Award!

The Golden Trout Community Service Award recognizes those who go above and beyond to serve our local community. This could be a volunteer, a teacher or coach, a business that provides essential services, or anyone else you think serves Roscoe in an exceptional way. The 2024 recipient of the Golden Trout Award was the Harris Funeral Home, a family business that has supported the Roscoe community for over two hundred years by providing dignified and affordable funeral services to our neighbors and their families. We are excited for the opportunity to honor and give thanks to another pillar of our community at this year's Two-Headed Trout Dinner - and we need your help!

Please email roscoeny@yahoo.com (subject line: Golden Trout Nomination) by no later than January 31 and tell us who you think should be this year's winner. Please provide specific information about the individual/organization you are nominating and an explanation of how they have gone above and beyond for the Roscoe community. The winner will be selected by the Two Headed Trout Dinner committee and announced later this spring, and will be honored at this year's dinner on April 5.

We look forward to reviewing your submissions. Keep an eye out for more information soon on this year's dinner and all the ways you can Celebrate Roscoe!

*The 2025 Two Headed Trout Committee
Rachael Tipping and Wendy LaManque, Co-Chairs*



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Free Electrical Trades Course Available County Again Partners with BOCES to Build Workforce

Liberty, NY - Building upon the popularity and success of construction, auto repair, security guard and welding courses offered in the last two years, Sullivan County's Center for Workforce Development (CWD) and Sullivan BOCES have teamed up once again to offer a free course - this time in the electrical trades - to up to 15 local residents.

"I thank the Legislature for devoting funding to our fifth initiative to provide local workers with practical, career-building skills," said CWD Director Loreen Gebelein. "Graduates of this program will learn the skills necessary to be immediately employable in jobs involving electrical equipment and installation."

The 10-week program is being administered by the CWD, part of the Division of Community Resources. Open to County residents who are 18 or older, possess a high school diploma/GED and have reliable transportation, classes start March 25 and will be held every Tuesday and Thursday from 5:30-9 p.m. at SUNY Sullivan in Loch Sheldrake. (Note that a background check/fingerprinting are required, with that cost to be borne by the participant.)

"This is hands-on training at our local college, and graduates of this program will be ready to work in an in-demand field," said Community Resources Commissioner Laura Quigley. "I encourage anyone interested to contact us right away, as only 15 spots are available for this course."

To find out more or to apply, contact the Center for Workforce Development at 845-794-3340, ext. 0620.

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Sullivan 180 Supports Families and Promotes Wellness with Fifth Annual Peace, Love & Lights Walk-Thru

[LIBERTY, NY] Sullivan 180 invited the community to step out of their cars and walk through the dazzling lights at Bethel Woods for the fifth annual Peace, Love & Lights' Walk-Thru Mondays. Guests were encouraged to explore the drive-through light installation up close while supporting a great cause.

This year's campaign continued its focus on promoting physical activity during the winter months while also benefiting the Sullivan County Federation for the Homeless and other local organizations. Walkers who brought a new, unwrapped toy, or hygiene product were given free admission, helping spread holiday cheer to families in need.

"The holidays can be a financially and emotionally challenging time for families already struggling to make ends meet," said Kathy Kreiter, Director of the Sullivan County Federation for the Homeless. "The support provided by Sullivan 180 and the community lets them know that people really do care."

To enhance the experience, four themed nights including School Spirit, First Responders, Healthcare Workers and Holiday Spirit Nights added extra fun and excitement; and brought together over 875 community members. During these nights, more than 500 gifts and over 90 hygiene products were collected, all of which will be donated to local organizations.

Additionally, Bethel Woods Center for the Arts, the Finance Team at Granite Associates, Liberty Rotary and Mullally Tractor Sales each made a financial commitment for each walker up to 600 participants, further leveraging the impact of the event.

"We are incredibly grateful for our partnership with Bethel Woods and the overwhelming support from our community," said Kellee Thelman, Sullivan 180 Marketing & Events Manager. "Together, we've created an event that unites the community, encourages healthy living, and provides support to those in need during the holiday season."

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Studio Artists Group

at the Daniel Pierce Library
Wednesdays from 9:30 - 12:30
Come paint with us!

Join this collaborative group as we create and inspire each other. Please bring any art supplies that you plan to work with to create your piece. Adults only.

Daniel Pierce Library

1st Friday BOOK CLUB

The first Friday of every month.

All adults welcome!



Cryptogram

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

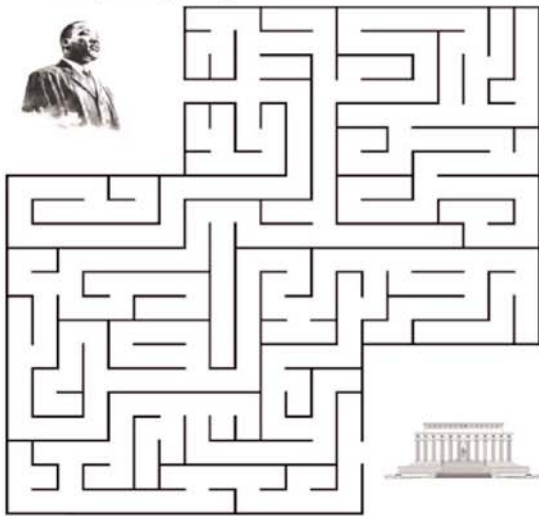
11 10 4 14 8 4 15 14 10 17 4 24 23 14 8 21 11 4 22 15 14

15 14 21 2 21 19 21 24 3 8 21 24 5 6 25 18 6 24 14

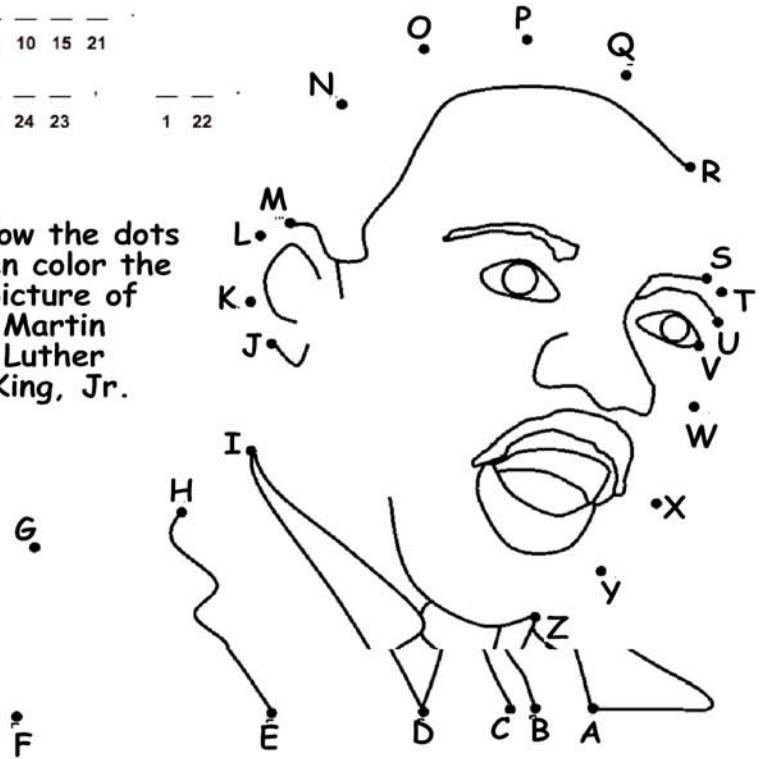
15 21 21 14 8 21 3 8 6 7 21 15 14 10 4 22 9 10 15 21

20 10 22 14 4 24 7 25 14 8 22 17 4 24 23 1 22

Martin Luther King, Jr. needs to make a speech.
Can you help him get to the Lincoln Memorial?



Follow the dots then color the picture of Martin Luther King, Jr.



Kids' Holiday Fun Page

- L.Comando



Can you find the five differences?



Martin Luther King, Jr. Day WORDSEARCH

D	E	T	S	E	R	R	A	N	O	A	S
T	A	W	I	U	P	J	A	I	L	A	P
T	A	Y	T	C	Q	U	O	T	E	S	E
K	O	A	T	D	L	T	L	R	L	A	E
I	D	R	O	F	G	N	T	A	Y	S	C
L	A	L	C	U	G	S	B	M	E	H	H
L	U	R	S	N	R	N	O	T	A	O	K
E	G	A	A	E	E	O	M	N	R	T	S
D	H	E	T	R	H	P	B	E	S	R	J
A	T	S	T	A	T	A	E	I	E	J	C
C	E	E	E	L	U	E	D	K	I	N	G
O	R	M	R	S	L	W	A	E	T	P	D
R	E	A	O	U	U	S	T	A	T	U	E
O	A	J	C	E	C	I	L	O	P	R	U

- MARTIN
- LUTHER
- KING
- JAMES
- EARL
- RAY
- STATUE
- CORETTA
- SCOTT
- SJOT
- ARRESTED
- YEARS
- KILLED
- BOMBED
- JAIL
- SPEECH
- DAUGHTER
- SONS
- POLICE
- WEAPONS
- QUOTES

Cryptogram Key

10	26	9	18	21	11	23	8	4	1	17	7	20	24	6	2	12	22	15	14	25	19	3	16	5	13
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

LEGALS/PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

TRI-VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that, pursuant to Section 6-d of the General Municipal Law of the State of New York, a Board of Education Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 23, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. prevailing time at the Tri-Valley Central School District Secondary School Lower Level Collaboration Center. The public hearing shall be held at the time and place stated herein.

12/26; 1/9; 1/16

Neversink Fire District Sale of 2000 Volvo FireTab Tanker

Neversink Fire District will be accepting bids for purchase of the used 2000 Volvo FireTab Tanker. The specs of the vehicle are as follows;

2000 Volvo FireTab tanker 2,000 gallon tank
500 GPM pump darley
Cummins 350 HD
16,720. Miles
Allison HD 4060P 5 speed
Rear axle Meritor RS30-18, Ratio 5.380
Front axle 16,500 LB.

For any inquiries or questions please contact Commissioner Timothy Dexheimer at (845)701-0946

Bids must be received in writing to
Neversink Fire District
Attn: Tanker Sale Bids at PO
Box 394 Neversink, NY 12765

until Thursday, February 13th, 2025 for consideration. Bids will be opened at our February Commissioner meeting on Thursday, February 20th, 2025 at 7:00pm

Dana Vogler
Neversink Fire District Secretary

1/9; 1/16; 1/23; 1/30; 2/6; 2/13

DEC's Annual Tree and Shrub Seedling Sale is Now Open

**Every Tree Planted Counts Toward State's Goal to
Plant 25 Million Trees by 2033
Free Seedlings for Youth Education Available
through School Seedling Program**

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Interim Commissioner Sean Mahar today announced that the Colonel William F. Fox Memorial Saratoga Tree Nursery's annual spring seedling sale is now open and will run until May 14, 2025. Each year, the nursery offers low-cost, New York-grown tree

Tri-Valley CSD Board Meeting Board Workshop Committee Meetings Thursday, January 23, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. Secondary School Lower Level Library

**The meeting will be livestreamed on the
District's YouTube channel**

<https://www.youtube.com/CHANNEL/UCKI224vKO8nAWhR6N%20%20Vao24w/live>

and shrub species for sale to encourage plantings that help conserve New York's natural resources and foster the next generation of forests.

"DEC is excited for our annual seedling sale, which provides New Yorkers with an excellent opportunity to get involved in environmental stewardship and support progress to achieve Governor Hochul's goal of planting 25 million trees by 2033," said Interim Commissioner Mahar. "The annual tree and shrub seedling sale not only allows individuals, families, and organizations to affordably beautify their communities, it plays a vital role in enhancing our natural ecosystems, combating climate change, and promoting biodiversity. Whether you are a homeowner, part of a community group, or a land manager, I encourage you to take advantage of this valuable resource and help New York plant the seeds for a healthier, greener future."

DEC's tree nursery grows more than 50 conifer and hardwood species from local seed sources, creating seedlings that are well-suited to New York State's climate. Seedlings are sold in bundles of 25 or more and there are several mixed species packets available for those looking for a variety. Seedlings are a minimum of five inches tall and are one to three years old, depending on the species. For more information including how to order, visit the Spring Seedling Sale webpage on DEC's website. Some species sell out quickly, so order early.

School Seedling Program Application Period Now Open

Applications are now being accepted for the nursery's School Seedling Program. From now until March 28, schools and youth education organizations across New York State may apply to receive 25 free seedlings to plant with students.

The goal of the program is to help instill a sense of environmental stewardship among New York's youth and set a foundation that will allow students to make informed decisions about the use of natural resources. The program is an excellent tool for educators to use in meeting the Next Generation Science Standards as it provides a hands-on opportunity to learn about natural systems and the valuable role of trees, while building awareness of conservation issues.

All schools (public, private, nursery, elementary, secondary, vocational, college or university), homeschool groups, and any youth education-based organization may apply, provided trees are planted in New York State. Individual homeschools must apply through a homeschool group, co-op, or other association. Seedlings are two to three years old, approximately four to 12 inches tall, and bare-root. There are four species available - jack pine, red oak, river birch or speckled alder - and each school or organization may only receive one group of seedlings per year. Visit DEC's website for more information and to apply online. For assistance or questions, contact the Colonel William F. Fox Memorial Saratoga Tree Nursery at nysnursery@dec.ny.gov or 518-581-1439.



A Settlement Divided

Virtual Program by Sullivan County Historian John Conway

Sunday, February 2, 2 p.m.

Virtual Only

Members: FREE, Non-Members: \$5

Telling the engrossing story of the Cushetunk settlement in the 1770s, as residents chose up sides in the American Revolution, and neighbors—even, in at least one case, brothers—who had for years depended upon each other for their very survival, took up arms against one another.

From Bezaleel Tyler and Moses Thomas—Patriots killed at the Battle of Minisink—to Joseph Ross and Robert Land—notorious Loyalists who befriended Joseph Brant—some of the settlement's most prominent men ended up on opposite sides during the conflict, which also severely impacted the women and children.

John Conway is an internationally recognized historian and historiographer who has served as the official Sullivan County Historian since 1993. He is a founding member and President of The Delaware Company, which operates Fort Delaware Museum of Colonial History in Narrowsburg and provides historical programming at the Minisink Battleground Park in Barryville.

Time and the Valleys Museum

845 985-7700

Email: info@timeandthevalleymuseum.org to request link



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Schedule

THURSDAY: 6:30-8:30 PM

FRIDAY: 6:30-8:30 PM

SATURDAY: 1-3PM & 6:30-8:30 PM

SUNDAY: 1:00-4:00 PM

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PBS Nova Documentary Inner Worlds



Thursday, February 20, 2025
6:00-7:30 p.m.

Snow Date March 6th

Recommended for adults and students ten and up

Join local experts John Kocijanski & Irene Pease for an evening of exploration! We will watch the PBS Nova documentary,

Inner Worlds focusing on Venus & Mercury.

Lets discover these planets together with additional insight from our experts.

If you are curious about the galaxies, this program is for you.

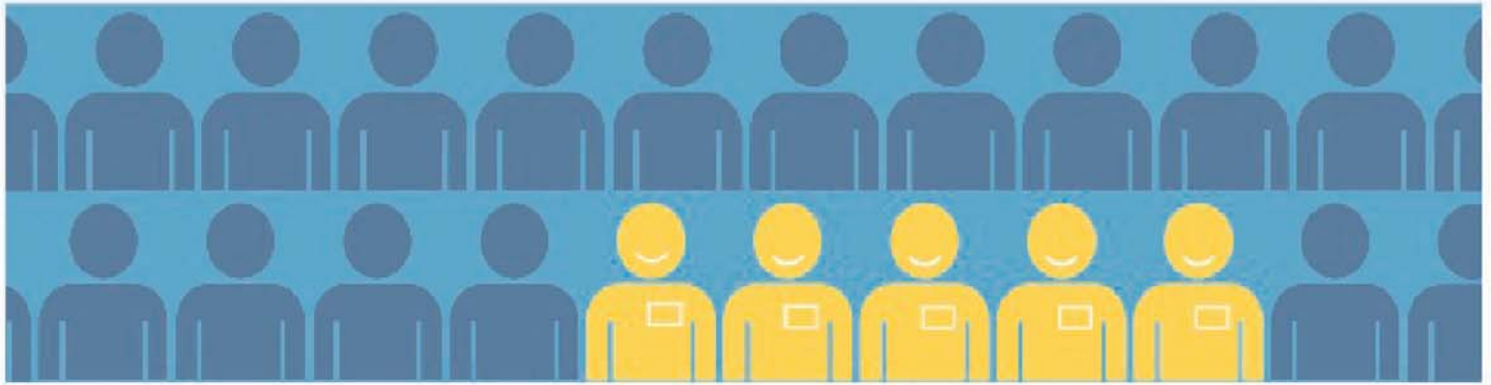
Advanced registration is required at www.danielpiercelibrary.org.

In the event of inclement weather, please check our website and social media for cancellations.



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**Sundown United Methodist Church
Covered Dish Supper
5:30 pm
Feb 1, 2025**

Many items from the Indoor Yard Sale will be available for sale at the Supper. Come check them out.

Sundown United Methodist Church Hall

St. Mary's and St. Andrews Church
139 S Main Street • Ellenville, NY 12740

Mass Times
SUNDAY EUCHARIST
5:00 PM Saturday Evening
7:30 AM Sunday Morning
10:00 AM Sunday Morning
(Latin) 11:30 AM Sunday Morning*
(Spanish) 1:00 PM Sunday Afternoon
*Sung Mass 2nd and 4th Sundays

WEEKDAY EUCHARIST
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9:00 AM Saturday

HOLY DAY EUCHARIST
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Sunday morning: 9:00 am and 11:30 am

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Thursday, 3 pm Divine Mercy Chaplete followed by Mass

Saturday afternoon confessions: 3:45 to 4:15 pm
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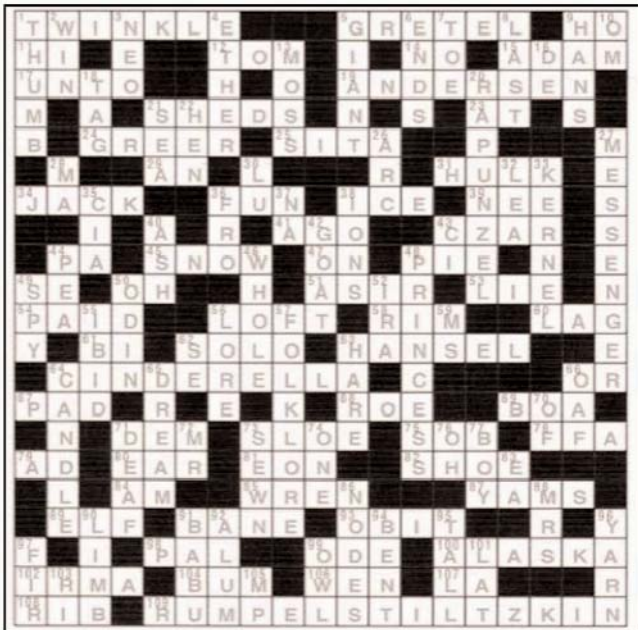
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Holy Days 5:30 pm
Penance 9:00 am, 2nd Sunday of the month
Rev. Thomas P. Kiely, Pastor

Ans to last week's Crossword



Sundown United Methodist Church Covered Dish Supper

Saturday,
February 1 2025 5:30 pm
at the Church Hall
**Check out the tables with Yard Sale items
available for sale**

*(Covered Dish Suppers are held the
First Saturday of each month at 5:30 pm
at the Church Hall)*

Call for SCDW's "The Odd Couple" (Female Version)

Neil Simon's hilarious comedy is coming to the Sullivan County Dramatic Workshop's Rivoli stage! We're looking for talented actors to fill the roles of Olive Madison and Florence Unger, along with their four quirky friends, and a couple of Latin gentlemen neighbors. Show dates are July 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20.

We are looking for 6 females and 2 males.

Auditions will be held on Monday, January 27th from 6-8 pm. Callbacks for Florence, Olive, and the two men will be held on Tuesday, January 28th from 6-8 pm. Callbacks for all will be held on Wednesday, January 30th at 6 pm. All auditions and callbacks will be held on Zoom.

Please send resume and headshot (if you have one) to Director Charlie Redler at CharlieR51@gmail.com to schedule your audition. No later than Sat. 1/25 please.

Auditioners should prepare a one-minute comedic monologue or relate a funny, interesting situation that happened between you and a friend or friends

Charlie will email times, character descriptions, and sides to all who audition. Individual auditions will be private and then there will be group readings.

We can't wait to see your talent!

SUUJI WA TANSU NI KAGIRU
answer

	4	1	7	2			8
	3			6			
	7	5	1	3			6
					2		5
3					1		
		4	8				3
		9	2				1
1					5		
						9	7

Order Your 4 Free At-home COVID-19 Tests

• Every U.S. household is eligible to order 4 free at-home tests

Do you want 4 free Covid Tests Kits?

Go to: [CovidTests.gov](https://www.covidtests.gov)

COVID-19 testing can help you know if you have COVID-19 so you can decide what to do next, like getting treatment to reduce your risk of severe illness and taking steps to lower your chances of spreading the virus to others.

Your order of COVID tests is completely free - you won't even pay for shipping. Want to know when your tests are coming? Sign up to receive email alerts when you order!

Check the air quality where you are at:

<https://www.airnow.gov/>

ARTISTS • CRAFTERS
Need a place to show and sell your crafts?
Call us at 845-985-0501
email: tvtownsman@yahoo.com
or visit our Virtual Mail
<http://gnomehomeinc.com>

VETERANS always **Free** search of the Archives for family or history of Sullivan County
at the **Sullivan County Museum**, 265 Main St., Hurleyville, NY.
For information call 845-434-8044.

LOCAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1/8/25	Town of Neversink Organizational - Board Meeting
1/16/25	Denning Town Board & Business Meeting 6:00 pm Denning Town Hall
1/20/25	Town of Neversink Holiday - MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY
2/1/25	Sundown UMC Covered Dish Supper 5:30 Church
2/4/25	Claryville Fire District Monthly Meeting 6:30 pm
2/12/25	Neversink Fire District Commissioner Meeting 7:00pm

TOWN OF OLIVE MEETINGS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Unless otherwise noted, all **Town Board meetings** are held at the Town Meeting Hall, Bostock Road, Shokan at **7:00 pm.** Town Board Meetings are the **second Tuesday of each month** with the **audit/workshop meetings** being held the **Monday preceding the second Tuesday.**

Town of Olive Planning Board meets the **first and third Tuesdays of each month.** Meetings start at 7:30 PM at the Town Hall on Bostock Road, Shokan, NY. You can contact the Town Building & Zoning Department to confirm a meeting date if you would like to attend at 657-2015. If there is nothing on their agenda, they will cancel meetings.

Town of Denning - <http://www.denning.us>
Town of Neversink - <https://townofneversink.org>

To all Local Municipalities, Civic Organizations, Churches, etc.
Please remember to send us your **Events Calendar for 2025** so that we may continue to post your meetings and events throughout the coming year. You may email them to: tvtownsman@yahoo.com or USPS Mail - The Townsman, PO Box 232, Grahamsville, NY 12740

Ulster County Legislature Weekly Update For The Week Of January 13 - January 17, 2025

Monday, January 13

- o 4:00 PM - Ulster County Economic Development Alliance Special Meeting, in the KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston 34 Wayside Drive, Hurley & Via Zoom, Meeting ID: 847 9024 7494, Passcode: 589535
- o 5:00 PM - Ulster County Community Services Board, in the Ulster County Department of Mental Health, 368 Broadway, Kingston

Tuesday, January 14

- o 5:00 PM - Ulster County Board of Health, 239 Golden Hill Lane, 2nd Floor Conference Room, Kingston
- o 6:00 PM - Ulster County Board of Ethics, in the Ulster County Human Services Complex, Building #2 - Veterans Agency Entrance, 100 Development Court, Kingston
- o 6:00 PM - Caucuses, Democrats, in Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston & and via videoconference due to extraordinary circumstances pursuant to NYS Public Officers Law Section 103-A and Ulster County Local Law No. 8 of 2022, Zoom Meeting ID: 895 7534 3388 or by dialing (646) 558-8656; Republicans, in the KL Binder Library, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston

The Following Public Hearings and Organizational Meeting of the Legislature will be held in Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston & via videoconference due to extraordinary circumstances pursuant to NYS Public Officers Law Section

103-A and Ulster County Local Law No. 8 of 2022, Zoom Meeting ID: 896 5378 2841 or by dialing (646) 558-8656

Also Available Via Livestream at youtube.com/@UlsterCountyLegislature:

- o 6:35 PM - Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law No. 19 of 2024, A Local Law Regulating The Use Of County Parking Lots
- o 6:40 PM - Public Hearing on Naming a County-Owned Asset
- o Immediately Following Public Hearings - Organizational Meeting of the Ulster County Legislature

Wednesday, January 15

- o 8:00 AM - Workforce Development Board, in the Office of Employment & Training, 521 Boices Lane, Kingston
- o 9:00 AM - Ulster County Industrial Development Agency, in Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston
- o 10:00 AM (Or Immediately Following Industrial Development Agency) - Ulster County Capital Resources Corporation, in Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston

- o 6:00 PM - Ulster County Human Rights Commission, in the Restorative Justice & Community Empowerment Center, 733 Broadway, Kingston

Thursday, January 16

- o No Meetings

Friday, January 17

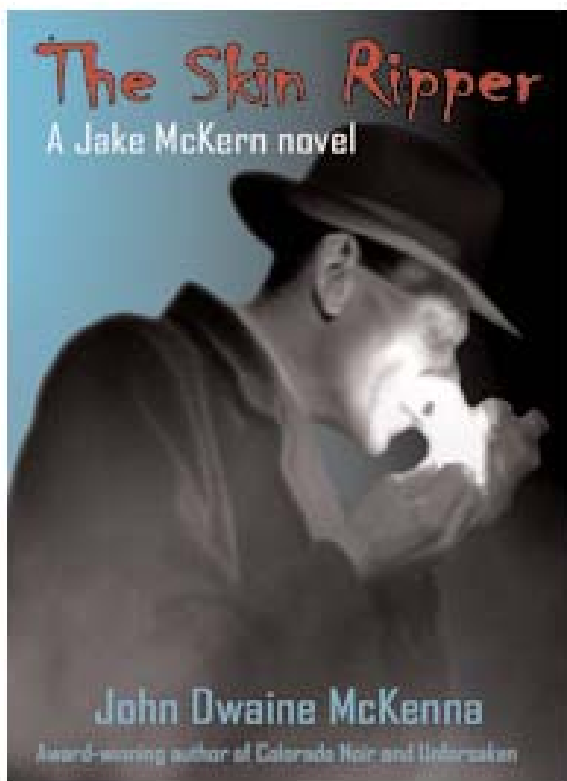
- o No Meetings

The Skin Ripper

A novel

John Dwaine McKenna

From the award-winning pen of John Dwaine McKenna comes a searing new novel five years in the making . . .



Recently promoted and just out of the hospital after a long recuperation from injuries he received while battling Lee Roy Morgan gang as they were trying to rob Colorado Commercial Bank, Colorado Springs homicide detective Jake McKern is on his first case . . . the double murder of an elderly couple who ran a small grocery on the 'Springs near west side . . . while at the same time, his personal life is crashing down around him.

With the only clue being a handwritten journal in an unknown and indecipherable language, the victims turn out to be Jews who survived Auschwitz and the horrors of the Shoah, the case suddenly takes on an international flavor with world-wide consequences.

The suspense ratchets up with each chapter as the beleaguered detective is drawn ever deeper into a morass of treachery, danger, and personal tragedy. It's Jake's darkest

hour and his greatest adventure to date!

ISBN 978-0-9896763-7-3

325 pages

Price \$19.95

Available Now at:

Neversink General Store

Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Apple
And bookstores everywhere.

Town of Neversink Parks & Recreation Presents:

Vendors Wanted!



Winterfest

2025

Feb. 8th
11a-4p

Ice Skating - Food Vendors
Snowman Build - Craft Vendors &
Much much more!

Now Accepting Vendor Applications!!
email: parksandrec@townofneversink.org

Alternate date: Feb 22nd



**Ellenville Regional
Hospital Auxiliary Gift Shop**

Friday, Jan. 17 - 10-3

**END OF YEAR
WINTER SALE CLOSEOUT!!!!!!!!!!**

**30% OFF
OUR ENTIRE WINTER STOCK**

Lulu and Smokey - Two Beautiful Cats Need a Good Caring Home



Lulu

Two beautiful cats are in need of a good, caring home. Lulu is a female black and white cat. She's about 13 years old. She is an indoor outdoor cat, but mostly indoor. She is very lovable and loves to play and be petted.

Smokey is the gray male tabby cat. He is about 12 years old and a big boy. He just loves to play, be petted, and loves his food.

He too is an indoor outdoor cat, but mostly indoor. I have been taking care of them for a month and have not let them outside, and they are fine with that.

Their owner was my brother who recently passed away and he had both cats for at least 12 years. They have had all of their shots, and will come with a supply of food, kitty litter and pans, bowls for food and water, and toys.



Smokey

The hope is to keep them together.

I would love to keep them, but have 3 dogs that would not take well to cats.

Only serious cat lovers will be considered.

If you are interested, please contact me.

Esta Jacob

856-866-1579 Cell

845-985-3937 Home

ejacob4848@gmail.com

Sun Trail Storage
Sun Trail is a local family-owned business
God Bless America

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and Route 55 Grahamsville, NY



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7 AM - 9 PM
Every day
of the week
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or
(914) 672-3952

Please call for availability first

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local business grow
**Advertise locally in
The Townsman!**

Classified ads - \$5.00
for the first 20 words/
20 cents each additional word

Display Ads

1" Boxed ad (1"x3")-
\$7.50 per week

Business card ad (2" x 3")
- \$15.00 per week

(3" x 4") - \$30.00 per week

(3" x 6") - \$45.00 per week

1/4 pg (4" x 5") - \$50.00 per week

1/2 pg (4"x8") - \$80.00 per week

Full Page - 8" x 10" - \$100.00 per week

Digital Flyer Insert - 8"x10 - \$100.00/week

**Sign up for quarterly billing and get
a 20% discount**

.. Full Page Flyer for
Local Municipalities
and Organizations -
one time fee- \$20.00

(once the flyer is inserted
we will publish it each week
through the week of the event)

**As in the past, there is no fee for
advertising for our local churches**

**Low Rates
High Visibility!**



2025 SULLIVAN COUNTY DMV winter schedule

mobile unit
on location 10:00am - 3:00pm



<p>JEFFERSONVILLE</p> <p>Tues January 7</p> <p>Tues February 4</p> <p>Tues March 4</p> <p>License & Registration Appts</p> <p>19 Legion Street, Jeffersonville, NY</p>	<p>WURTSBORO</p> <p>Thurs January 23</p> <p>Thurs February 20</p> <p>Thurs March 20</p> <p>Registration Appts Only</p> <p>2948 US 209, Wurtsboro, NY</p>	<p>NARROWSBURG</p> <p>Tues January 21</p> <p>Tues February 18</p> <p>Tues March 18</p> <p>Registration Appts Only</p> <p>210 Bridge Street, Narrowsburg, NY</p>	<p>HORTONVILLE</p> <p>Thurs January 16</p> <p>Thurs February 13</p> <p>Thurs March 13</p> <p>Registration Appts Only</p> <p>104 Lower Main Street, Hortonville, NY</p>
<p>LIVINGSTON MANOR</p> <p>Tues January 14</p> <p>Tues February 11</p> <p>Tues March 11</p> <p>Registration Appts Only</p> <p>95 Main Street, Livingston Manor, NY</p>	<p>GRAHAMSVILLE</p> <p>Thurs January 9</p> <p>Thurs February 6</p> <p>Thurs March 6</p> <p>License & Registration Appts</p> <p>273 Main Street, Grahamsville, NY</p>	<p>LIBERTY</p> <p>Tues January 28</p> <p>Tues February 25</p> <p>Tues March 25</p> <p>License & Registration Appts</p> <p>15 Sullivan Ave Liberty, NY</p>	<p>BLOOMINGBURG</p> <p>Thurs January 30</p> <p>Thurs February 27</p> <p>Thurs March 27</p> <p>License & Registration Appts</p> <p>13 North Rd. Bloomingburg, NY</p>

Schedule an appointment on the county website sullivanny.gov | County Clerk Russell Reeves

Saturday, January 25

1pm: Friends Mixer

3pm: Friends Mixer

The Friends are a volunteer group whose mission is to benefit the Olive Free Library by raising money, providing volunteers for Library events and programs, raising community awareness of the Library, and advocating on behalf of the Library.



"A beautiful, bighearted treasure of a novel."
—LILY KING

HOW TO READ A BOOK

A NOVEL

Olive Free Library

AUTHOR OF THE ONE-IN-A-MILLION BOY

MONICA WOOD

VIRTUAL BOOK CLUB
Saturday, January 18 • 4 pm

Multiplicity: Together and Apart

featuring 11 regional artists whose works are presented as multiple pieces that are intended to work together or work individually

Curated by Jan Sosnowitz

featuring 11 regional artists whose works are presented as multiple pieces that are intended to work together or work individually

Curated by Jan Sosnowitz

January 18 – March 1, 2025

Opening Reception: Sat., January 18, 3 – 5 pm

Artists' Meet & Greet: Saturday, March 1, 2:30 – 4 pm

Artists in the show:

Nova Darkstar	Lowell Miller
Ted Dixon	Robert Ohnigian
Robin Factor	Vincent Pidone
Pat Hough	Alan Samalin
Sarah Mecklem	MJ Shepard
	Frank Tagariello

OLIVE FREE LIBRARY
4033 Route 28A
West Shaker, NY
olivefreeibrary.org
845.677.2482

Community Mixer!

Saturday, January 25, 3-5 p.m.

Hosted by the Friends Group – Olive Free Library

Clear the winter blues and come in from the cold. Join old friends, meet new friends, enjoy the good vibes of Olive over warm bowls of soup and stew, bread and other warm refreshments! We look forward to seeing you there!

Olive Free Library

Birds of Prey

WITH Robinson's Wildlife

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST at 11 a.m.

Join us for our annual Bird's of Prey show. Robinson's Wildlife will be here to talk with us about birds of prey and maybe even have a few flying friends for you to see!



INTRO TO Beekeeping

with Rob Overton

Saturday, January 18
10am - 4pm

Olive Free Library

Full-day FREE intensive seminar

Designed for beginners, great refresher for all beekeepers!

No prior experience necessary

DEC Announces Summer Camps Registration Opens March 23, 2025 Families Encouraged to Register Early for Camps

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Interim Commissioner Sean Mahar today announced that online registration for the 2025 Summer Camps program will open Sunday, March 23, 2025, at 1 p.m. Parents and guardians can register youth for a week of camp, manage their account, and complete required forms and waivers through a link from the [DEC Summer Camps webpage](#). Guardians are encouraged to register early since weeks fill up quickly and are advised to monitor the webpage for upcoming announcements on 2025 camp forms.

“At DEC’s summer camps, youth have the opportunity to take part in a variety of lessons and workshops to develop outdoor skills, learn about nature and wildlife, and build a foundation for lifelong environmental stewardship,” Interim Commissioner Mahar said. “We encourage families to sign up early for these great opportunities and for sponsors to support the next generation of conservationists.”

Now in its 78th year, the DEC Summer Camps program offers week-long adventures in conservation education for children ages 11 to 17. DEC operates four residential camps for kids: Camp Colby in Saranac Lake (Franklin County); Camp DeBruce in Livingston Manor (Sullivan County); Camp Rushford in Caneadea (Allegany County); and Camp Pack Forest in Warrensburg (Warren County). Opening of specific camps is dependent on staff availability.

Camp Rushford will offer five weeks of programming for children ages 11 to 13, and two weeks for 14- to 17-year-olds. Camp Colby will operate five weeks of camp for 11- to 13-year-olds, and two weeks for campers ages 14 to 17. Camp DeBruce will offer six weeks for kids ages 11 to 13, and one week for 14- to 17-year-olds. Camp Pack Forest will host children ages 11 to 13 for three weeks, and 14- to 17-year-olds for four weeks with one Outdoor Adventure Week. Individual campers are limited to one week of camp registration. If spots at camps are still available after May 24, campers will be allowed to sign up for additional weeks. The complete schedule of camp weeks and ages is available on the [Camp Weeks and Availability webpage](#).

At camp, kids will have the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of outdoor adventures and are encouraged to try new things. Activities may include fishing, birding, fly-tying, archery, canoeing, hiking, camping, orienteering, and hunter safety education.

DEC campers engage in fun, hands-on activities and outdoor exploration focused on local field, forest, and freshwater aquatic ecological principles. Campers might collect insects in a field, use nets in a stream, investigate soil composition, measure tree sizes, or practice taking field notes and writing in journals. Trips to nearby State lands might include kettle bogs, State Parks, fish hatcheries, or nature museums.

One hunter education program of gun, bow, or trapping is offered at each camp during four of the camp weeks. Class size is limited for hunter education programs and campers must sign up during registration and complete required homework in advance. Registered campers will receive booklets prior to their session at camp.

Camp Pack Forest will offer an Outdoor Adventure Week during Week 4 (July 20 - 25). DEC encourages teens ages 14 to 17 who love being outdoors to sign up for this popular program that will help deepen their enjoyment and widen their horizons. During this week, campers will develop hands-on outdoor skills that go above and beyond the traditional camp week. In addition to typical camp activities, campers may be engaged in team- and trust-building activities, forestry, citizen science, conservation science, and more. Guest DEC and natural resource professionals will introduce campers to a variety of career options.

All four camps will offer seven one-week sessions (Sunday to Friday) beginning June 29, 2025. One week of camp is \$350 per child for 2025, and includes lodging, meals, trips, and a camp t-shirt. This significant value for a week-long overnight camp is supplemented by assistance from New York State to help make camps and the education benefits they provide affordable for more New Yorkers.

In addition to inviting guardians to register children to participate in the DEC environmental education Summer Camps program, sporting clubs, civic groups, and environmental organizations are encouraged to sponsor one or more children for a week at camp. Information about becoming a sponsor and managing sponsor accounts is available at the [Sponsoring Youth to Camp webpage](#) on DEC’s website.

For more information, please visit the DEC’s website, email EducationCamps@dec.ny.gov, visit “NYS DEC Summer Camps” on Facebook or write to DEC Camps, 3rd Floor, 625 Broadway, Albany, New York 12233-4501.


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*your next event at the
Daniel Pierce Library!*

Reserve the Community Room or the
Reading Room and make it an event
to remember!

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go to our website for further details.*



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Grahamsville, New York 12740-0268 | 845-985-7233
dpl@rcls.org • www.danielpiercelibrary.org



Sundown
United
Methodist
Church



February 1, 2025
5:30 pm

Bring a covered dish to share
Enjoy good food and fellowship

and don't forget to check out the tables
filled with a variety of collectibles,
household items and more
that will be available for sale

Sundown United Methodist Church Hall
(Intersection of Sundown Rd., Peekamoose Rd. & Greenville Rd., Sundown, NY 12740)



Please Help Save Our School!

The Claryville Reformed Church and the Time and the Valleys Museum
are working together to preserve and open
the historic 1848 Claryville One Room School, and we need your help.

A donation of ANY amount will go directly to the 1848 Claryville School and help:

- inventory the many historical items.
- purchase acid-free storage supplies for artifacts, photos and documents.
- repair the building and restore the one room school interior.
- open the school to the public on a regular basis.
- provide programs for children and adults.

PLEASE make a tax-deductible donation today using the form below or go to www.timeandthevalleymuseum.org. This historic building is an important part of our fading past and should be preserved and enjoyed by all - your donation will make that happen!

Thank You!

Yes! I would like to make a donation to preserve and open the 1848 Claryville School.

_____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$250 _____ \$500 _____ \$1,000 _____ Other

Please mail your check to:
Time and the Valleys Museum
P.O. Box 254, Grahamsville, NY 12740
or go online:
[www.timeandthevalleymuseum.org/
support/donate](http://www.timeandthevalleymuseum.org/support/donate)

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Email: _____

Thank you so much for your donation.
Your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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Get Museum Membership & FREE Admission to over 30 Museums for only \$25 a year!

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- ◆ Free admission to the Museum and Catskill Farm
- ◆ Invitations to exhibit openings and special events
- ◆ *Around the Reservoirs* Newsletter
- ◆ Monthly historical and informative emails
- ◆ 10% discount in the Museum Shop
- ◆ FREE admission to over 30 other museums in New York State



Join NOW and get a free art catalogue!

Join at the \$100 (Patron) level for FREE admission to thousands of museums all across North America!

Time and the Valleys Museum, P.O. Box 254, Grahamsville, New York 12740
 845 985-7700 or join online: www.timeandthevalleymuseum.org

- Individual \$25
- Double \$40
- Family \$50
- Patron \$100
- Patron Silver \$200
- Patron Gold \$500

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State & Zip: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Thank you for supporting local history and the Museum

Time and the Valleys Museum

P.O. Box 254, 332 Main Street, Grahamsville NY 12740

Claryville Fire Dept.

1500 Denning Road Claryville, NY 12725

All You Can Eat Pancake Breakfast



Sunday, January 19th

Serving 8:00 until 12 Noon

Adults: \$13

Senior Citizens (age 65 +): \$11

Children Ages 5-11: \$5

Under 5 Yrs. Free

Take-outs: \$13

Call 845-985-7270

**Pancakes, French Toast, 3 eggs any style, Hash brown, Sausage,
Man-n-moon, Spud-eggo, Oj, Coffee / Tea**

\$50 from the Breakfast Is Donated to the Claryville Reformed Church Food Pantry

Governor Hochul Announces 2025 Film Tribute “We Press On: New York State Celebrates the Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.” to Air on PBS Stations Statewide

*Public Invited To Attend a Free Special
Screening of the Program on Friday, January
17, at the Empire State Plaza
Convention Center*

Governor Kathy Hochul today announced that New York State's annual commemoration of the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. will be presented as a statewide broadcast event, “We Press On: New York State Celebrates the Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.,” airing on PBS stations throughout New York beginning MLK weekend and streaming on empirestateplaza.ny.gov/nyking.

“Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s powerful words and actions never cease to resonate in our hearts and minds, calling us to be the change we want to see in our societies every day,” Governor Hochul said. “This year's film tribute to Dr. King shares the stories of some remarkable New Yorkers who uphold his legacy in their communities and strive towards a more just and equitable future for our state. I invite everyone to watch this inspirational documentary that pays homage to an incredible man.”

Coordinated annually by the New York State Office of General Services, the tribute to Dr. King showcases a selection of people and organizations from across New York State that embody the principles of one of America's most significant leaders for social justice, freedom and equality. Airtime of the hour-long tribute will vary by region; viewers are encouraged to check their TV listings or local PBS station for more details.

The public is also invited to attend a special “We Press On: New York State Celebrates Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.” screening on Friday, January 17, at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center. Hosted by Deshanna C. Wiggins, Chief Executive Officer for the Albany Black Chamber of Commerce, this event is free and open to the public. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the event begins promptly at 6:30 p.m. Complimentary light refreshments will be served while supplies last. Parking in the Visitor's Lot (V-Lot) will be free after 4 p.m.

Through the eyes of New Yorkers from Buffalo to Brooklyn and Manhattan to Schenectady, the program focuses on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s life and dreams with music, art and inspiring stories that reflect paths to change across New York State. Some of the show's highlights include:

- o A special Martin Luther King, Jr. Day message from New York State Governor Kathy Hochul.
- o Commentary from SUNY Chancellor Dr. John B. King, Jr. and members of SUNY's Black Leadership Institute.
- o A look at the Hamilton Hills Arts Center in Schenectady, a community center focused on teaching and honoring the arts and cultures of the African Diaspora.
- o A feature on Nina Simone, the soulful voice of the civil

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rights movement, who used her music as a form of activism.

- o A profile on the work of food historian and author Von Diaz.
- o A performance by Vogue Buffalo, a group dedicated to leading the Ballroom Renaissance for LGBTQ+ youth of Western New York.
- o A moving performance by Every Voice Choir where youth are empowered to discover their voices and share them with pride.

Everyone is invited to tune in to learn more about New Yorkers living their lives in the image of Dr. King. In addition to viewing options on PBS stations statewide, “We Press On: New York State Celebrates Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.” can be viewed at empirestateplaza.ny.gov/nyking, beginning at 10 a.m. on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, January 20.

As part of the State's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. celebrations, the public is invited to view the New York State Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Student Fine Arts and Essay Exhibition at the Empire State Plaza Concourse or online. This exhibition features submissions from K-12 students throughout the State inspired by Dr. King's Six Principles of Nonviolence. A virtual gallery of the students' work is available at empirestateplaza.ny.gov/nyking.

Also, New York State holds several service-related programs each year to fulfill Dr. King's vision of community. These include the Dr. King Volunteer Fair, held on Wednesday, January 15, 2025; the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Statewide Food Drive, which started on December 9, 2024, and will end on February 18, 2025; the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Statewide Book Drive, held February 21 through April 18, 2025; and the 25th annual Dr. King Career Fair, held on Thursday, April 10, 2025.

For NY PBS member station program updates and additional information, please visit empirestateplaza.ny.gov/nyking and follow @NYSGeneralServices on Instagram and @NewYorkStateOGS on Facebook.

Pattern for Progress Welcomes 10 Regional Leaders to its Board of Directors

NEWBURGH - Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress is pleased to announce the addition of 10 regional leaders to its Board of Directors. Directors on Pattern's board support its nonprofit mission to provide objective research and planning to the Hudson Valley by helping the organization with strategic planning, governance, research, education, fundraising, and by bringing the nonprofit's work to regional leaders who can use it for action.

mittees with the Dutchess County Regional Chamber of Commerce. She is a member of her church staff-parish relations committee, where she has served as chair for three years.

Conor Eckert is senior vice president at the Orange County Partnership, where he works closely with national site selectors, corporate brokers, elected officials, and end-users to facilitate industrial and commercial projects that create jobs and positive economic activity in the county. He also leads the strategic business development and site selection efforts of the Orange County Partnership, with a focus on life sciences, manufacturing, food and beverage, and logistics. He has worked with nationally recognized brands such as Tesla, Amazon, City Winery, PharmaCannis, Cardinal Health, UAP, Prime Source, Poly Craft Industries, and Royal Wine/Kedem, leading to significant jobs creation and private investment in Orange County. Prior to his

role with the Orange County Partnership, Eckert served as executive director of the Town of Montgomery Industrial Development Agency (IDA) and Director of Economic Development and Planning. Eckert earned his bachelor's degree in public policy and his master's degree in public administration from Binghamton University. He also earned a graduate certificate in real estate development from Cornell University

Frank Filiciotto is the principal traffic engineer and New York metro area market lead at LaBella Associates. Filiciotto is a traffic engineer and planner with 20 years of diverse experience across the public and private sectors. He enjoys improving transportation systems so they are safer, more walkable, and more inviting for everyone. He also enjoys helping developers deliver the best in land use by incorporating thoughtful and cutting-edge multi-modal design aspects. Filiciotto also serves on the board of the Hudson Valley Economic Development Corporation (HVEDC) and the Poughkeepsie Alliance. He lives in Poughkeepsie

with his wife and daughter. He's an avid runner and a jazz music enthusiast.

Anthony P. Luisi is senior counsel at Harris Beach Murtha Cullina, where he leads the environmental practice group. Luisi has more than 15 years of professional experience throughout the Hudson Valley and across New York State, including as a former regional director for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), where he served as senior manager of 12 regional divisions and offices in the Capital Region, and as regional attorney of the DEC. Luisi is well versed in federal and state environmental statutes, regulations, and case law. (Contd. Pg. 38)

				
Nicole Carino Senior Vice President M&T Bank	Conor Eckert Senior Vice President Orange County Partnership	Frank Filiciotto Principal Traffic Engineer LaBella Associates	Anthony Luisi Senior Counsel Harris Beach Murtha Cullina, PLLC	Michele O'Connell President & CEO Orange & Rockland Utilities
				
Michelle O'Reilly Partner PKF O'Connor Davies	Stephanie Raymond President & CEO Central Hudson Gas & Electric	Jonathan Roberts President & CEO Hudson Valley Credit Union	Kelly Ryan Vice President IBM Technology Lifecycle Services	Curt Schultzberg Vice President Hudson Valley Investment Advisors

The newest directors were nominated last autumn and voted onto the board in December by the broader membership of Pattern for Progress, which includes academic institutions, businesses, nonprofit organizations and local governments throughout the nine-county region that it serves.

The following were appointed as new board members: Nicole Carino is a senior vice president at M&T Bank. Carino has more than 18 years of commercial banking experience in the Hudson Valley. She earned her bachelor's degree in business management from the University at Buffalo in 2006. Carino is dedicated to serving her community. She also serves on the board of directors of Greystone Programs, and on various com-

Pattern for Progress Welcomes 10 Regional Leaders to its Board of Directors

(From Pg. 37) He represents companies, municipalities, and individuals in connection with real estate development and management, land use and zoning, regulatory compliance and permitting, and litigation. He has served on the boards of several not-for-profit organizations, including Greenburgh Nature Center in Scarsdale and Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless in Albany, and as chair of the board of directors of the Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission. Luisi earned his J.D. from Fordham University School of Law and a bachelor's degree from Binghamton University. He resides in the Capital Region with his wife and two children.

Michele O'Connell is president and CEO of Orange & Rockland Utilities, Inc. O'Connell previously worked at Con Edison, where she served as vice president of customer service operations and in several other roles throughout New York City and Westchester County. O'Connell currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Hudson Valley Economic Development Corporation (HVEDC), the New Jersey Utilities Association (NJUA) and the New York Building Congress. She is a member of the Edison Electric Institute (EEI) Operating Company Leadership Group, New Jersey Energy Coalition Advisory Board, Partnership for NYC Urban Resiliency Advisory Board and Women's Forum of New York. She is a former David Rockefeller Fellow and was an executive committee member at both the AEIC (Association of Edison Illuminating Companies) and EEI. She earned her bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the New Jersey Institute of Technology, and her master's degree in business administration from Montclair State University.

Michelle O'Reilly is a partner at PKF O'Connor Davies Accounting and Advisors. She has 25 years of audit and advisory experience, working with the not-for-profit and healthcare sectors, including charities, social service agencies, education, the arts, membership organizations, nursing homes and voluntary health and welfare organizations. She also serves affordable housing entities including low-income housing tax credit limited partnerships and other commercial enterprises. O'Reilly is a founding member of the firm's diversity and inclusion council and has authored various articles for its thought leadership publications. She earned her bachelor's degree in accounting from Marist College.

Stephanie Raymond is President & CEO of Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation, where she is responsible for setting company-wide strategic direction, operational leadership, financial management, and regulatory oversight. Prior to joining Central Hudson, Raymond served as president of PPL Electric Utilities Corporation, where she oversaw electric delivery operations for more than 1.5 million customers across 29 counties in Pennsylvania. During her 12-year tenure at PPL, she held various executive roles, covering strategic planning, operations, customer service, regulatory compliance, financial management, and business services. Raymond also spent a decade in the telecommunications industry, holding several senior leadership positions. Raymond volunteers for several business and community organizations. She serves on the boards of the SUNY New Paltz Foundation, the Business Council of New York State, the Association of Edison Illuminating Companies (AEIC), the American Gas Association (AGA), and serves on the advisory board of ESource. Ms. Raymond earned her bachelor's degree in business administration with a focus on finance/strategic management from California State University, Sacramento, and is an alumna of the Stanford Graduate School of Business Executive Education Program.

Jonathan W. Roberts is the President & CEO of Hudson Valley Credit Union (HVCU), one of the largest credit unions in the United States, with more than \$7 billion in assets, more than 1,000

employees, and has 30 branches in Dutchess, Ulster, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Westchester, Greene, Columbia, Albany, Rensselaer, Schenectady, and Saratoga counties. Prior to joining HVCU, Roberts served as executive vice president at Webster Bank in Connecticut, where he led community banking and served on the bank's operating committee. Roberts has extensive banking experience over the past 30 years with several well-respected institutions, including Fifth Third Bank, Citizens Bank, FNB Corp and Santander North America. A graduate of the University of Cincinnati and Stonier Graduate School of Banking, he is also an alumnus of The Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania where he graduated from the General Management Program in 2018. He currently serves as a board member for the New York Credit Union Association, and ChildFund International.

Kelly Ryan vice president of technology lifecycle services at IBM. For the past 12 years, Ryan has been an executive leader in IBM's infrastructure division, which designs, builds, delivers and supports industry-leading solutions that meet enterprise scale requirements. She currently drives IBM multivendor infrastructure support and manages global technology lifecycle services client innovation centers. Ryan is the executive sponsor of IBM's Hispanic Business Resource Group and has built women's leadership programs around the world. She began her career in a technical role in operating systems development as a content developer and was also an associate partner in IBM Consulting focused on both K12 and Higher Ed. Kelly earned her bachelor's degree from Clark University. She earned a master's certificate in project management from George Washington University and is an IBM Certified Project Executive and holds project management certification from the Project Management Institute. In her spare time, Kelly does the important things in life - spending time with her family and friends and doing anything outside including playing tennis, skiing and hiking, and watching her son play golf.

Curt Schultzberg is vice president and strategic market manager at Hudson Valley Investment Advisors. His career in finance has focused on the intermediary and business side of the industry. Schultzberg has wholesaled for several organizations, been the chief administrative officer for a national broker dealer, ran domestic mergers and acquisitions for a multi-national insurance company, and has been responsible for the build-out of both large and small business development teams. Schultzberg graduated with a dual major from the State University of New York, College at Oswego, and as an active alumnus he currently serves as vice chair on the Dean's Advisory Board for the School of Business. He is also a member of the Orange County Chamber of Commerce Non-Profit Committee. Outside the office, Schultzberg spends significant time enjoying live music as well as hiking, biking, camping, motorcycling, paddling the Hudson Valley and beyond.

About Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress

Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress is a nonprofit organization that provides objective research, planning, and educational training throughout the region. Its work identifies civic challenges and promotes regional, equitable, and sustainable solutions to constantly improve the quality of life in Hudson Valley communities. Pattern develops its work upon a considerable foundation of facts and experience, without political aims or affiliations.

Pattern was founded in 1965 by the region's academic, business, and nonprofit leaders. It serves a nine-county region that includes Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester counties. Visit Pattern-For-Progress.org. Follow on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn @PatternForProgress, and on Twitter @HVPattern.

SAVE A LIFE! DONATE! SHARE OUR STORY!



NICK NEEDS KIDNEY -TYPE O (IN SOME CASES TYPE A BLOOD COULD WORK)

Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) progresses in stages and, if untreated, can lead to complete loss of kidney function. At CKD stage 5, when both kidneys fail completely, the only options for survival are dialysis or a kidney transplant. Nick is at stage 5.

If interested in donating please contact Westchester Medical Center and speak with a Living Donor Coordinator at 914.493.1990

More about our warrior Nick....

Nick was diagnosed with Tuberous Sclerosis Complex (TSC) at birth. TSC is a neurological disorder that produces seizures, tumors, and lesions that effect the organs of the body and can cause Autism. Nick has been battling with seizures his whole life from infantile spasms to adult grand-mal seizures. May 2019 we heard the worst news that Nick's function was under 10% on both kidneys. Since then Nick has had multiple surgeries so he could get the proper dialysis preformed. Nick goes in center for 4 hours 3 times a week. Not what the sweetest, kindest, 31 year old should be going through.

Nick has such a big heart and is loved by so many in our community. We all want Nick to have the best quality of life and going through dialysis does not provide that quality. We hope and pray a kidney comes to us and that Nick will be able to live a happy and healthy life doing what he loves and that is to bicycle all throughout our town making people smile. Nick is a big part of the community, he takes pride with his volunteer work with the EMS and is the Honorary member of the Monticello Fire Department.

Lets all band together for Nick and help him find a kidney so he can live life to the fullest!

*For any other questions
845.798.2077 nickneedsokidney@gmail.com*

 Follow Nick
[@nickneedsokidney](https://www.facebook.com/nickneedsokidney)

DEC's Annual Tree and Shrub Seedling Sale is Now Open

Every Tree Planted Counts Toward State's Goal to Plant 25 Million Trees by 2033

Free Seedlings for Youth Education Available through School Seedling Program

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Interim Commissioner Sean Mahar today announced that the Colonel William F. Fox Memorial Saratoga Tree Nursery's annual spring seedling sale is now open and will run until May 14, 2025. Each year, the nursery offers low-cost, New York-grown tree and shrub species for sale to encourage plantings that help conserve New York's natural resources and foster the next generation of forests.

“DEC is excited for our annual seedling sale, which provides New Yorkers with an excellent opportunity to get involved in environmental stewardship and support progress to achieve Governor Hochul's goal of planting 25 million trees by 2033,” said Interim Commissioner Mahar. “The annual tree and shrub seedling sale not only allows individuals, families, and organizations to affordably beautify their communities, it plays a vital role in enhancing our natural ecosystems, combating climate change, and promoting biodiversity. Whether you are a homeowner, part of a community group, or a land manager, I encourage you to take advantage of this valuable resource and help New York plant the seeds for a healthier, greener future.”

DEC's tree nursery grows more than 50 conifer and hardwood species from local seed sources, creating seedlings that are well-suited to New York State's climate. Seedlings are sold in bundles of 25 or more and there are several mixed species packets available for those looking for a variety. Seedlings are a minimum of five inches tall and are one to three years old, depending on the species. For more information including how to order, visit the Spring Seedling Sale webpage on DEC's website. Some species sell out quickly, so order early.

School Seedling Program Application Period Now Open

Applications are now being accepted for the nursery's School Seedling Program. From now until March 28, schools and youth education organizations across New York State may apply to receive 25 free seedlings to plant with students.

The goal of the program is to help instill a sense of

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Start at Route 28 and Reservoir Rd in Shokan 1.7 Miles
 ← Turn LEFT onto Monument Road
 Continue onto NY-28A West 1.8 Miles
 ← Turn LEFT onto NY-213 1.1 Miles
 → Turn RIGHT onto Krumville Road/CR-2A 0.8 Miles
 Gun Shop on LEFT

Start at Route 209 and 213 in Stone Ridge
 -Going Towards Olivebridge 7.5 Miles
 ← Turn LEFT onto The Krumville Road/CR-2A 0.8 Miles
 Gun Shop on LEFT

Bingo at the Monticello Elks Lodge

Every Tuesday at 7 PM
 46 North Street in Monticello
 For information
 contact Past Exalted Ruler Ronni Scannell
 at (845) 701-0695

environmental stewardship among New York's youth and set a foundation that will allow students to make informed decisions about the use of natural resources. The program is an excellent tool for educators to use in meeting the Next Generation Science Standards as it provides a hands-on opportunity to learn about natural systems and the valuable role of trees, while building awareness of conservation issues.

All schools (public, private, nursery, elementary, secondary, vocational, college or university), homeschool groups, and any youth education-based organization may apply, provided trees are planted in New York State. Individual homeschools must apply through a homeschool group, co-op, or other association. Seedlings are two to three years old, approximately four to 12 inches tall, and bare-root. There are four species available - jack pine, red oak, river birch or speckled alder - and each school or organization may only receive one group of seedlings per year. Visit DEC's website for more information and to apply online. For assistance or questions, contact the Colonel William F. Fox Memorial Saratoga Tree Nursery at nysnursery@dec.ny.gov or 518-581-1439.

State of the State for Future Leaders: Governor Hochul Proposes Investments in Education and Youth Mental Health in Fireside Chat with Hundreds of High School and Community College Students


Governor Kathy Hochul today proposed new investments in education and youth mental health at a fireside chat with hundreds of high school and community college students. The proposals build on the Governor's commitment to making the State a place where residents of all ages have access to the resources they need to thrive. They include expanded access to youth mental health services, launching a college-in-high-school opportunity fund and providing funding for new apprenticeship programs in high demand occupations. Governor Hochul also announced that she will introduce legislation in her FY26 Executive Budget to restrict cell phone use in K-12 education, following on her historic legislative action to protect kids on social media. These 2025 State of the State proposals follow previously announced initiatives to boost the Empire State Child Tax Credit, increase child care options and provide free universal school meals.

"New York's next generation of leaders deserves the full range of resources it takes to get ahead - and with a creative, ambitious agenda to expand access to higher education and trades programs, improve mental health services and bolster recreational programs, we are opening up brighter opportunities for countless young New Yorkers," Governor Hochul said. "My State of the State promises to deliver on our commitment to make New York a place where our young people have access to the resources they need to thrive."

Investments in Mental Health Services- Providing High Schoolers With Teen Mental Health First Aid Training

This proposal builds on Governor Hochul's commitment to investing in training adolescent New Yorkers in teen mental health first aid. This skill set equips high school-aged youth with evidence-based tools to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges among their friends and peers, including the impacts of bullying and school violence. This year, Governor Hochul will roll out a teen mental health first aid program in high schools to equip students with the basic skills to support themselves and their peers to drive a generational culture change and strengthen mental wellness.

Supporting Youth Mental Health in After-School Programs



**BECOME
SOMEONE'S
Angel**

Donate a little of your time and have a direct impact on someone's path to recovery!

HOPE
not HANDCUFFS
www.hopenothandcuffshv.com

To help promote the health and well-being of young people, Governor Hochul will connect mental health resources to after-school programs. By connecting licensed health care facilities to State-funded after-school programs, the Governor will ensure that youth have access to these critical resources after school hours. Additionally, the State will offer youth mental health first aid training to all State-funded after-school providers and will partner with SUNY to match social work graduate students with local State-funded after-school programs to complete their required fieldwork and support vulnerable youth.

Development of Youth Safe Spaces

In response to ideas put forward by the Youth Mental Health Advisory Board and young New Yorkers, Governor Hochul will develop new safe spaces for youth. These spaces outside of school or home will provide a place where youth can access mental wellness resources, foster positive relationships with their peers and receive support in a comfortable setting, alongside friends and community members. (Contd. Pg. 42)

State of the State for Future Leaders: Governor Hochul Proposes Investments in Education and Youth Mental Health in Fireside Chat with Hundreds of High School and Community College Students

(From Pg. 41)

Expanding the Latina Mentoring Initiative and Creating the Black Girls Mentoring Initiative

Young Latinas have the highest rate of suicide attempts among teen populations in the U.S. In New York State, suicide is the second leading cause of death for Latina teens, and in New York City, 18.5 percent of Latina teens seriously considered suicide in 2019, a percentage higher than their peers.

In 2021, the State launched the Latina Mentoring Initiative (LMI) to empower future Latina leaders ages 8 to 24 by building soft skills, confidence and nurturing aspirations via personal and professional development.

In the last three years, LMI has created a safe space that builds community where youth are inspired by Latina representation, encouraged to expand their possibilities and are affirmed and celebrated. This year, the Governor has proposed to increase investment in the LMI to increase the number of youths served by this impactful program. Additionally, leveraging learnings from the success of the Latina Mentoring Initiative, the Governor has proposed launching the Black Girls Mentoring Initiative to support young Black women.

Investments in Higher Education and Apprenticeships Launching a College-in-High-School Opportunity Fund

While New York has been leading the way to make higher education more affordable, Governor Kathy Hochul is working to create more ways for families to save by putting new funding and State support behind the dual high school and college enrollment model. College-in-high school programs allow students to access college courses and mentorship opportunities while completing their high school education, giving them a head start on their college careers and setting students and families up to trim time and money off their college education.

New York State is currently home to three college-in-high-school programs which have proven successful in furthering student achievement and bolstering rates of college matriculation and persistence. The Budget will include funding and support to help streamline the multiple existing college-in-high-school programs and provide ongoing, per-credit funding for early college in high school programs while increasing reporting requirements to give the State additional data to track student performance. Initially implemented in a limited number of districts, this program will focus on providing opportunities for economically disadvantaged students to achieve college credits and will be free to participating high school students, saving students who participate up to \$20,000 if they complete two years worth of credits.

Create New Registered Apprenticeships and Pre-Apprenticeships in High-Demand Occupations

Nationwide, 93 percent of workers who complete Registered Apprenticeships gain employment, and annual average starting wage post-apprenticeship is \$77,000. While there are nearly 18,000 apprentices across New York, opportunities exist to expand this gold-standard apprenticeship model beyond the skilled construction trades.

Governor Hochul recognizes the need to develop programs to meet the workforce demands of high-growth occupations by incentivizing businesses and supporting participants, while focusing on diversification and expansion of programs. To that end, the Governor will provide funding for providers of registered apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships in the high-demand occupations, to cover partial apprentice wages, training costs, and for underrepresented groups,

wraparound services.

Recruit Students for a Summer Work Experience Program

The State Department of Labor will collaborate with school districts and businesses to recruit high school students for a summer work experience program in high-demand fields. Businesses participating in the program will receive reimbursement for 50 percent of the students' stipends during the summer.

SUNY Chancellor John B. King Jr. said, "There is a place at SUNY for every New Yorker, and we applaud Governor Hochul for her vision and leadership addressing the needs of our youth so they succeed in getting an excellent education. Today's fireside chat reinforces the importance of starting early and breaking down barriers between high school and college so every student has the opportunity to explore and experience higher education."

CUNY Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez said, "Young New Yorkers are grappling with a rapidly changing world that can be challenging to manage. I'm grateful to Governor Hochul for listening to and addressing their concerns, giving them more tools to cope with mental health issues and better preparing them for college. Our city and state will reap the rewards."

New York State Council on Children and Families Executive Director Vanessa Threatte said, "Governor Hochul's ongoing and unprecedented commitment and investments in youth mental health services and educational and career opportunities are critical to helping not just individuals but to ensuring strong and resilient communities. As the executive director of the Council on Children and Families, the state agency responsible for promoting cross-agency collaboration, I am looking forward to advancing these innovative efforts."

WE'RE LOOKING FOR
Volunteers
TO HELP US OUT!

Maybe you're a student looking for some volunteer hours, a retiree looking to use your skills and passion to help others, or maybe you just LOVE your library and have an extra hour or two each week!

Whoever you are, we appreciate your interest!

To apply for volunteer opportunities at the DPI, please complete a volunteer application.

Thank You!





Monticello President's Corner

Lori Orestano-James

The month is already flying by with so much going on.

First and foremost, our prayers and positive energies are being sent to all those in California who are dealing with one of the worst natural disasters our country has ever experienced. We will discuss at our meeting ways in which our club can help in this tragedy.



Our prayers and love go out to our District Governor Leo Kaytes, his entire family and all the members of the Warwick Rotary Club on the loss of Leo's father. May his memory be for a blessing.

Leo Kaytes, a devoted family man, respected businessman, and cornerstone of the Warwick community for nearly five decades, passed away peacefully on January 10, 2025, at St. Anthony Community Hospital. Surrounded by the love of his family, he left behind a legacy of unwavering dedication, selflessness, and kindness. He was 91 years old.

Obituary can be found here:

https://www.lsvpmemorialhome.com/obituary/Ak257?fbclid=IwY2xjawHYWRleHRuA2FibQIxMQABHYQ-02YWQUs3wo2R9WVCmbPLAAJT4IvmwbMjldiOn2e-E1nPhgjnYX6L6g_aem_DyY_vURHHzvENwENOy3y4A

We hope to see everyone on Friday, January 17th from 5pm - 7pm at The Brew in Rock Hill for Humpback Friday. Bring a friend, spouse, significant other, or potential member to our monthly fellowship gathering. Appy's sponsored by the club - cash bar. A great time for all who attend so don't miss it!

The event closest at hand is our participation in the WSUL 98.3 Heart-a-thon. A community event, but one with a strong Rotary presence. This year, Monticello Rotary will be hosting the Healthy Heart Health & Wellness Fair on February 21st from 10am - 4pm. Chaired under the very able Crystal Tweed, work is being done on scheduling of mini courses to be offered throughout the day along with agencies and organizations who will provide materials and resources on a myriad of health and wellness issues. During the Health Fair, we will hold our Joint Club Blood Drive as well. Anyone wishing to donate blood should register for a time at https://donate.nybc.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/321501

In addition, we will once again be assisting at Resorts World to sell the Heart Cards over weekends leading up to the Heart-a-thon on February 21, 2025. Thank you to those who already have signed up. Please take a look on this link and sign up for an available time(s) to help out. <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1406liV8Y4jTedMvQ1QPz-Lpn-NvmRGVUMHjEWRBuxus/edit?gid=178320377#gid=178320377>

If you need assistance in doing this, please let me know and I am happy to help.

District Team Learning Seminar will take place on February 22, 2025, at New Paltz High School from 9am-2:15pm. This is a fantastic opportunity for us as a group to deepen our knowledge, build on our understanding of our roles, and connect with fellow District Leaders from across the district. Please sign up today at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeRa7bikPH-HpFjIY7PNBLI-KOBwVtqcNWL3r1D5ByLCi9jTw/viewform?usp=sharing>

Don't forget to mark your calendars for Tuesday, April 22, 2025 when we will once again hold our Monticello Rotary Taste of Sullivan at SUNY Sullivan. Please join us for the Committee Meeting this Tuesday, January 14, 2025 at 5:30pm just before our regular meeting.

We have Rotary Day of Service on Saturday, May 17th where we will hold our Community Unity Health Fair in collaboration with SALT (Sullivan Allies Leading Together). We will be holding our joint club Blood Drive at that event as well.

We will be starting a Flags for Heroes Project at the Sullivan County Government Center, our Bar-B-Q in June, Scholarship Selections, RYLA selections, and so much more. Please join in the great work being done by our club!

Program for January 14, 2025 - Jaime Schmeiser - SUNY Sullivan Director of Workforce Development

Agenda for January 14, 2025

1. Meeting Called to Order - President Lori Orestano-James
2. Pledge Of Allegiance - Secretary Orshii Boldiis
3. Introduction of Guests of Members - Full Membership
4. Guest Speaker - Jaime Schmeiser - SUNY Sullivan Director of Workforce Development
5. Committee Reports:
 - Taste of Sullivan - Helen Diehl
 - Heart-a-thon/Blood Drive/Health Fair - Lori Orestano-James, Crystal Tweed/Les Kristt
 - SCFH Coldest Night of the Year Event - Jodi Goodman
 - Help with California Wild Fires
 - RECAP Letter of Support
 - Rotary Radio - Rick Stein
 - Interact/RYLA - Cris Spinner
 - Public Relations Coverage - Lori Orestano-James
6. Regional Updates/District Updates -
7. Old Business
8. New Business
9. Happy Dollars
10. 50/50 Raffle
11. Adjourn

Link for Zoom Meeting Sign-on:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88506100931?pwd=MUNmWnhZanR6M21CSy9McjNQSTBudz09>

Looking forward to seeing you all for our meeting at Albella on Tuesday night at 6:30. For those needing the Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88506100931?pwd=MUNmWnhZanR6M21CSy9McjNQSTBudz09>

Our Motto: Service Above Self - How have you met that goal lately?

Dates to Remember can be found below.

Some upcoming important dates to mark on your calendar:

- Taste of Sullivan Committee Meeting Tuesday, January 14, 2025 - 5:30pm Albella
- Monticello Rotary Monthly Board Meeting Tuesday, January 21, 2025 5:30 Albella
- Humpback Friday - Friday, January 17, 2025 5pm - 7pm at The Brew in Rock Hill
- (See additional dates in information narrative above).
- With Rotary Pride,
- Lori Orestano-James
- President Monticello Rotary 2024-2025

Stories

Jimmy Carter's Vision For Peace

A man of peace who truly lived by our Four Way Test. May he be at peace.

This story appeared in the February 2018 issue of Rotary magazine. By: Diana Schoberg

It's a crisp, sunny day in late October, and school groups are touring the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library in Atlanta.

They see the Bible that the 39th U.S. president took his oath on, a campaign ledger, and a mockup of the Oval Office - as well as his diploma in square dancing, a "Peanuts to President" game board, and a Marvel comic with the Carter family joining Captain America in saving energy.

At the end of the exhibit is Carter's Nobel Peace Prize, which he received in 2002 in recognition of his decades of work advancing peace and human rights.

"This is the biggest award in the world," one of the field trip leaders explains to the elementary school students. Then she puts it into terms they will understand: "This is bigger than the Super Bowl MVP, believe it or not."

Perhaps she should have mentioned his two Grammys.

(Contd. Pg. 44)

Montigram President's Corner

(From Pg. 43)

Carter has spent his life fighting for peace: brokering the 1978 peace talks between Egypt and Israel that led to the Camp David Accords, paving the way for a nuclear pact between the United States and North Korea in 1994, and monitoring elections in Panama, Nicaragua, Venezuela, and other places where the ballot box became an alternative to civil war. During his time in office, from 1977 to 1981, the United States was not involved in any wars.



Jimmy Carter received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002 for his decades of work resolving international conflicts and advancing human rights.

For the past 37 years, Carter has been redefining what it means to be a retired president - and the country's longest-lived one at that, having surpassed Herbert Hoover (who lived 31 years after leaving the White House). During his presidency, Carter made a commitment to human rights the cornerstone of his foreign policy; he and his wife, Rosalynn, continued that emphasis when they founded the Carter Center in 1982. The center's programs revolve around two main themes: peace and health.

"We feel that there's a human right of people to live in peace," he told *The Rotarian*. "We feel it's a human right to have a modicum of health care, to have a decent place in which to live, to have a chance to have an education, to have freedom of speech and freedom of religion and the right to elect your own leaders."

The center has observed 105 elections, including recent contests in Liberia, Kenya, the Philippines, Zambia, and Guyana, and it has worked with the United Nations and other groups to develop standards for democratic elections. When democratic avenues fail, the center mediates armed conflicts. It is currently involved in efforts to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, as well as conflicts in Sudan and South Sudan, Syria, and Liberia; it's also working to combat the rise in violent religious extremism and Islamophobia in Europe, the Middle East, and the United States.

On other fronts, the Carter Center has formed a task force on disease eradication. The only one of its kind in the world, it analyzes data to ascertain which diseases could be eradicated from the entire world. The center is focusing on eradicating Guinea worm disease and regionally eliminating five other diseases: river blindness, trachoma, schistosomiasis, lymphatic filariasis, and malaria.

"I might say if Rotary wasn't leading that fight to eradicate polio now, the Carter Center would - it's the kind of thing that would be very exciting for us," Carter says. "We're very proud to see the progress that Rotary has had with that."

Carter knows the power of service organizations well - he's a member of the Lions club in his hometown of Plains, Georgia, and a past district governor. And for more than 30 years the Carters have dedicated a week each year to volunteering with Habitat for Humanity.

Carter spoke with senior staff writer Diana Schoberg by phone from

his home in Plains on Halloween. Still very involved in the community where his family has lived since 1833, he planned to go downtown that night to join other local leaders in greeting trick-or-treaters. image

The Carters have volunteered with Habitat for Humanity for more than 30 years.

Q: The Carter Center describes itself as waging peace. If peace isn't merely the absence of war, describe the battle for peace.

A: We take peace not as a dormant situation, but as one to be fought for - like winning an armed conflict. We try to be aggressive in order to bring about that goal. We are not constrained at the Carter Center by policies of the United States government, although we have to comply with the law. We deal with people who are outcasts, or unsavory. I've been to North Korea three times, and I've probably spent more than 20 hours with their top leaders talking about the prospects of peace. We've also continued to deal with both Palestinians and Israelis. We have a relationship with the president of Sudan, Omar al-Bashir, who the United States refuses to deal with. We try to probe aggressively to find ways to bring about a peaceful understanding between adversaries, but I always make a point to get permission from the White House before I embark on such an adventure.

Q: How do you work with people who are arguing with each other?

A: I wrote a book, *Talking Peace*, about that. People who are at war, or a couple with a marital difference that leads to divorce, or parents who are alienated from children, or students divided on a campus - all have a difference of opinion that they can resolve.

When I founded the Carter Center, I wanted it to be a little Camp David, where I negotiated with people who were at war. But I soon found that sometimes when two sides were fighting in a civil war, they didn't even want me to talk to the other side - they despised their adversaries that greatly. So instead of negotiating, we discovered that we could appeal to them by taking advantage of a basic premise of politics, and that is self-delusion. We would go to the generals of the two sides separately and say, why don't you let us come in and help you hold an honest election - we're sure that the people of your country will choose the right person to be the leader. And since both sides thought they would be victorious in a peaceful election if we were in charge of it, they would go along with it. So we've now done more than 105 elections in the world, each without trouble, and many of them brought about by adversaries who found an election to be a better alternative than continued combat.

A: Is there something that you've learned monitoring elections that would surprise our readers?

Q: We've found that the United States doesn't meet the criteria for the Carter Center, because our elections are not conducted properly here. We don't have one central election commission that makes the decisions for our country - we have counties that decide exactly how people vote and what time they vote. The Carter Center requires uniformity in the whole country. image

Jimmy Carter has written 30 books, including *A Call to Action*, released in December 2014.

In most countries where we work, we require that every candidate who is qualified have an equal chance to present their proposals to the public, with uniform access to the public news media and to the people's minds. We try to minimize the impact of financial contributions within an election, not always successfully.

The United States has changed from a democracy to something of an oligarchy in the last few decades; the candidates who seek to be president have to raise a minimum nowadays of \$200 million before they can hope to receive the Democratic or Republican nomination, and then a lot more later, when they run against the opposite party's candidate.

Q: What would the United States have to do to fix its election system?

A: The main thing is to have public financing. When I ran for president in the general election against incumbent President Gerald Ford, he and I raised a total for the general election of zero. We didn't go to anybody and ask for a campaign contribution. (Contd. Pg. 45)

Montigram President's Corner

(From Pg. 44) When I ran against Ronald Reagan in 1980, again we got zero money from any private contributor. We just used the box on the federal income tax form that each taxpayer could check to contribute. Nowadays every vote is not the same. The candidates rely on very wealthy people to help them become a nominee and be elected president, and then they're obligated to those financial contributors when they get into office. The wealthy people get more wealthy and the powerful people get more powerful and the average person doesn't have an equal influence on the American government anymore.

Q: Techniques to influence elections have evolved beyond stuffing ballot boxes. We are now seeing hacking and social media algorithms affecting outcomes. How is the Carter Center responding?

A: The Carter Center is studying the voting process. In many other countries, even in a nation like Venezuela, they have a voting system where you indicate your preference by a touch screen, and that's transmitted to the central headquarters. Then you look at the screen and if it's how you want it, you punch a button and it prints out a paper ballot. If a question is raised subsequently about the integrity of the election, you've got the electronic system that has given you an opportunity to have very early tabulation and then you've got the paper system to substantiate the accuracy of it. We don't have that in our country, except in rare places.

There's no uniformity at all in America. I'm not criticizing my country, I'm just pointing out some possibilities for improvement.

Q: In its mission statement, the Carter Center recognizes that because it is tackling difficult problems, failure is an "acceptable risk." Why?

A: When we began our work, we decided that we would be nonpartisan in nature, and we decided that we would not duplicate what other people were already doing well. If the United Nations or the United States government or Harvard University was taking care of a problem, we wouldn't get involved in it. Instead, we'd fill vacuums in the world. Another thing that we decided, which is what you just mentioned, is that we would not be afraid of failure. If we think that something is worth doing, we make an all-out effort - even if we don't have any assurance at the beginning that we'll be successful. We've had some disappointments and we've had to change our priorities on some occasions, but that's led us into some of the most fruitful things that we've done.



In 1978, as president, Carter orchestrated peace talks between Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, left, and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, right. The talks served as a model when the former president and his wife founded the Carter Center in 1982.

Q: Can you give us an example?

A: Addressing Guinea worm, or dracunculiasis, was one of those that seemed hopeless. There was no known cure or successful treatment for it. It was found in 21 different countries. It was found in isolated villages that had no connection to one another. Often, ministers of health had never heard of the disease. It was one of those problems that nobody else wanted to address, so we had a chance to fill a vacuum. We had no assurance of success because until we began, there was no effective way to correct the problem. We've come a long way. We still face some unforeseen developments, but we are resolved to succeed. We've cut the number of cases of Guinea worm from 3.5 million the first year [1986] to 27 so far in 2017.



Jimmy Carter, with his wife, Rosalynn, and their daughter, Amy, at the 1980 Democratic National Convention.

Q: You've been very close to eradicating Guinea worm for a while, just like Rotary has been very close to eradicating polio. What has made it so intractable?

A: We had a surprising development in the country of Chad a few years ago. We had zero cases of Guinea worm in Chad for nine years and all of a sudden we had another very small outbreak and we found that dogs were involved with transmission, and almost everybody who lives along a particular river in Chad has a dog. We've had to deal with this new outbreak just like you've had some setbacks with polio, but we're not giving up.

Q: Being president of the United States would seem like the pinnacle of a person's career, but after you left office, you went on to become one of the most respected humanitarians of our time. What did your work as president teach you? And was there anything that you only learned later?

A: When I was president, I learned about the interrelationships between countries and the differences between the people who live on the earth. I learned about problems like the threat of nuclear destruction, and we had a first glimpse of global warming at that time. I learned how important peace was: I was lucky enough to have kept our country completely at peace while in office - we never dropped any bombs or launched any missiles or fired any bullets.

Since I've been out of the White House, I've had much more intimate relationships with individual people than I ever did when I was president, particularly with people in foreign countries.

Q: When meeting regular citizens, what has made the biggest impression on you?

A: We tend to underestimate folks who have an average income of only one or two dollars a day, who don't have good educations or decent homes. We think they're inferior to us in some way because they haven't provided for their families as we have. When we deal with them on a personal basis, we soon learn that they're just as good as we are, they're just as intelligent, just as ambitious, just as hard-working. Their family values are just as good as ours. We also learn that their perspective on life is different from ours, often because of the circumstances in which they've been born and raised. But we learn to respect them just as much as we respect ourselves.

Q: If you could do one thing to make the world a better place, what would that be?

A: The only time the human race has ever attempted to bring into reality the finest moral and ethical values of all the great religions was right after the Second World War, after 60 million people were killed. We organized the United Nations to guarantee that disputes would be resolved as they arose. That hasn't happened. We still have multiple wars. Three years later, in 1948, the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which guaranteed people equal rights. Those two things have been a dream or ideal or vision or aspiration or an inspiration, but they haven't been realized. I would mandate that disputes be resolved peacefully and that the declaration be implemented. That's what I pray for, and that's what I hope will eventually happen.

o This story originally appeared in the February 2018 issue of Rotary magazine



Counting the Electoral Votes & Certifying the 2024 Election

This week, Congress counted the electoral votes to officially certify the results of the 2024 election, moving our nation one step closer to installing President Trump back in the White House. In November, over 77 million Americans delivered a clear rejection of the past four years. Americans resoundingly cast their votes for President Trump to secure our borders, to cut taxes and overburdensome regulations, to unleash American energy, and for common-sense solutions to the challenges we face. It was a great privilege to vote to certify the 2024 Presidential election and usher in a new chapter of freedom and prosperity for our nation under President Trump's America First agenda.

Leading the Red Light Act to Put the Breaks on New York's Green Light Law

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ICth08u2FE>

Our nation is grappling with an unprecedented migrant crisis, yet some states, like New York, are incentivizing and rewarding criminals with driver's licenses and identification cards. In New York, the Green Light Law has given licenses to illegal immigrants, allowing dangerous individuals to roam freely in our country and jeopardizing the safety of our communities. In addition, this law also restricts law enforcement from accessing DMV records, preventing the enforcement of our nation's immigration laws.

In just the first month after New York's Green Light law took effect in 2019, more than 50,000 illegal immigrants received a New York State driver's license.

My Red Light Act ensures states that refuse to comply with our nation's immigration policies are not rewarded with federal funding. This bill directs the Department of Transportation to withhold a state's entire share of specific federal highway funds if the state enacts legislation allowing the issuance of driver's licenses or other identification cards to individuals who are unlawfully present in the United States.

READ MORE: House Republican's bill would rip federal funds from states that give illegal immigrants driver's licenses

<https://www.foxnews.com/politics/house-republicans-bill-would-rip-federal-funds-states-give-illegal-immigrants-drivers-licenses>

Introducing the SERVE Our Communities Act

Since 2019, New York has experienced a deadly crime wave after the passage of a so-called bail reform law which eliminated cash bail and expanded pre-trial release for a variety of misdemeanor and felony charges. This week, I introduced the SERVE Our Communities which will enhance public safety by encouraging states like New York to implement policies that hold repeat offenders accountable.

This legislation authorizes \$10 million in anti-recidivism grant funding from the Department of Justice for states with laws allowing courts to assess the dangerousness of individuals when determining bail or pre-trial release. To qualify for this funding, eligible states must demonstrate efforts to hire and

retain law enforcement personnel or launch public awareness campaigns aimed at countering anti-police sentiment and fostering improved community-police relations.

The SERVE Our Communities Act incentivizes states to prioritize law enforcement and public safety by repealing these harmful and misguided policies. We must end the ongoing cycle of crime caused by Albany's bail reform policies, which prioritize criminals over law-abiding New Yorkers.

Law enforcement from across NY-24 came out in support of my bill. Here's what they had to say:

"The NY Bail Reform of 2020 has proven to be a Colossal Failure. As a result of inept leadership in Albany, Law Enforcement continues to struggle at the local levels with high recidivism rates. The far left majority NYC delegates continue to "kick the can down the road" for nothing more than to skew the numbers and make a certain few in Albany look good. Return cash bail, and provide the Magistrates with the discretion they need, and send the message to the pathetic repeat offenders that your behavior will not be tolerated, and "get your act together." Thank you Rep. Elise Stefanik(NY-21) and Rep. Claudia Tenney(NY-24) for your support. The SERVE Our Communities Act could not come at a better time for all New Yorkers," said Jefferson County Sheriff Peter Barnett.

"I support any legislation that supports training and educating those in the legal system who are charged with determining the custody status of repeat offenders," said Ontario County Sheriff David Cirencione.

I would like to thank Congresswoman Tenney for sponsoring the Serve Our Communities Act as well as all of our elected leaders that support the initiatives outlined in the bill. To ensure public safety in our communities, we must hire and retain law enforcement officers that meet the highest standards in policing. At the same time, we must hold criminal offenders accountable, especially those repeat offenders that continue to victimize others and continually reoffend. Our judges, district attorneys and law enforcement officers must have the means to enforce the law and tools to hold dangerous offenders in custody when warranted," said Cayuga County Sheriff Brian Schenck.

"I am in full support of the Stop Enabling Repeat Violence and Endangering (SERVE) Our Communities Act and appreciate Congresswoman Tenney's efforts in sponsoring this important bill. We need to hold repeat offenders accountable and I hope that this bill helps to bring change to New York State with respect to courts gaining the authority to use a dangerousness standard when assessing bail or pretrial release. Public safety should always be our priority and we have all seen what the lack of consequences have done in our country. This bill would also help law enforcement agencies in their recruitment and retention while building positive connections with their communities. This is a great bill and I stand behind it," said Seneca County Sheriff Tim Thompson.

"Thank you, Congresswoman Tenney, for sponsoring the Stop Enabling Repeat Violence and Endangering our Communities (SERVE Act) bill. This critical legislation is essential to enhancing public safety in our communities. I hope this bill will give judges the authority to hold dangerous criminals accountable. I strongly urge all New York legislators to reconsider the harmful bail reform laws and work towards safer communities for everyone," said Oswego County Sheriff Don Hilton.

"From the inception of New York State Bail Reform I, along with many others, predicted that it would have dangerous consequences. Our worst fears have been realized with repeat offenders and dangerous criminals being allowed to walk free in our community. I hear complaints from residents on a regular basis about crime being committed by the same individuals over and over. I support any legislation that will allow judges to hold those accountable that persist in wreaking havoc on our law abiding citizens.

(Contd. Pg. 47)

This Week with Claudia

(From Pg. 46) It would be refreshing to see our efforts make a difference and to have state leaders recognize the difficult job we have because of misguided criminal justice reform," said Niagara County Sheriff Michael Filicetti.

READ MORE: NY GOP-sponsored bill would give \$10M in grants to take down repeat offenders

<https://nypost.com/2025/01/08/us-news/ny-gop-bill-would-give-10m-grants-to-tackle-repeat-offenders/>

As your representative in Congress, my top priority is championing legislative initiatives that benefit you and your families. Each week, I review numerous bills and letters, engaging in thorough discussions with members of our community to determine which actions to support and address your needs. Below are a few bills I recently cosponsored.

The Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act - The Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act allows individuals with a valid concealed carry permit in one state to legally carry their firearm in other states that allow concealed carry, ensuring uniformity across state lines. New York does not currently grant reciprocity or have reciprocity with any other state, meaning that law-abiding gun owners in New York cannot exercise their right to concealed carry in any other state. This bill will help strengthen and better protect New Yorkers' Second Amendment Rights, ensure that other states must recognize New York State concealed carry permits, and require New York to recognize other states' concealed carry permits.

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act - This bill reauthorizes the critical Great Lakes Restoration Initiative through FY2031, to continue the vital work being done to restore and maintain the natural beauty of the world's most important freshwater lakes. A center for domestic and international trade, manufacturing and natural beauty, these lakes directly support the livelihood of tens of millions of hard-working Americans. It is our duty to ensure that they remain pristine and maintain their environmental and economic success for generations to come.

TCJA Permanency Act - This bill makes permanent critical components of President Trump's 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. This includes permanently lowering individual tax rates for American families, preserving the 20 percent small business deduction and preventing tax hikes on Main Street, maintain the higher standard deduction to allow families to keep more of their hard-earned money, and makes permanent the doubled child tax credit from the original 2017 bill.

Transparency in Congress and a well-informed electorate are vital to preserving our self-governing Constitutional Republic. My constituents deserve to know how their members of Congress vote, which is why I have explained every vote I have cast in Congress since I was first elected.

To read more about my votes and see the full list with explanations of all the legislation considered this week by the House, please click here. <https://tenney.house.gov/about/my-votes-explained>

I voted "Yes" on H.R. 23, the Illegitimate Court Counteraction Act. After 459 days, Americans and Israelis are still being held hostage by Hamas. Instead of going after terrorists like the leaders of Hamas, the International Criminal Court (ICC) announced arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant for defending Israel against Hamas' terrorism. Like the United States, Israel is not a member of the ICC, meaning the ICC completely lacks jurisdiction to go after Israeli leaders. However, allowing the ICC to arrest Israeli leaders would create a precedent that could lead to American leaders being arrested and tried by the ICC, violating our national sovereignty. This important bill would impose sanctions on any ICC officials involved in the investigation, arrest, detention, or prosecution of any American or ally that is not subject to the

ICC's jurisdiction and prohibits any federal funding for the ICC. I was an original cosponsor of this important bill to uphold our national sovereignty and ensure that international institutions, such as the ICC, cannot unilaterally and illegally expand their jurisdiction my targeting countries that are not party to the ICC. H.R. 23 passed the House by a vote of 243-140-1.

I voted "Yes" on H.R. 29, the Laken Riley Act. H.R. 29 is a direct response to the devastating homicide of 22-year-old nursing student Laken Riley, whose suspected murderer was a Venezuelan that entered the United States illegally and had previously been arrested and released in New York City. This bill would ensure that illegal aliens charged with a crime are held in police custody until their case is adjudicated. The tragic death of Laken Riley could have been avoided if President Biden and Albany Democrats had enacted strong border policies and ended the pro-criminal bail reform policies that have allowed dangerous criminals back into our communities. President Biden's refusal to secure our borders during his administration will go down as one of the greatest derelictions of duty in our nation's history. I look forward to President Trump securing our nation's borders and working to protect our communities. I am an original cosponsor of this critical legislation and strongly supported this bill when it passed the House by a vote of 264-159.



Welcome to Kirsten's New York Minute!

Here's what she's been up to this week:



1. Getting sworn into the 119th Congress

Last week, Kirsten was sworn in for her third full term in the United States Senate. Representing New York is the honor of a lifetime, and Kirsten looks forward to continuing to fight for her constituents during the 119th Congress.

(Contd. Pg 48)

Welcome to Kirsten's New York Minute!

(From Pg. 47)

2. Honoring President Jimmy Carter

President Jimmy Carter was a devoted public servant, a lifelong activist, and a prolific humanitarian, and he will be deeply missed.



Kirsten paid her respects to President Carter as he lay in state in the U.S. Capitol and at his funeral on Thursday.

3. Plans for the new Congress

Kirsten is committed to delivering on the issues important to New Yorkers as she continues her work in the 119th Congress.

On Wednesday, she held a press conference outlining her legislative priorities going into the new Congress, which include lowering costs for hard-working families, creating good-paying jobs, passing paid family and medical leave, securing care for our 9/11 survivors, fighting age discrimination, and mandating government transparency and accountability.

Read more <https://cnycentral.com/news/local/senator-kirsten-gillibrand-outlines-her-priorities-for-central-new-york-and-beyond>

4. Fighting for the Equal Rights Amendment

The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) is our best shot at protecting reproductive freedom for years to come.

On Sunday, Kirsten brought her campaign for the ERA to New York City, where she urged President Biden to order the national archivist to certify and publish the amendment before he leaves office. If published, the ERA would enshrine equality and reproductive rights in the Constitution.

Read more. <https://cbs6albany.com/news/local/sen-gillibrand-advocates-call-on-biden-to-direct-certification-of-equal-rights-amendment>

5. \$\$\$ _ NY

Kirsten is committed to bringing federal dollars home to New York to improve critical infrastructure across the state. This week, she announced several significant federal investments that will make our state safer, greener, and more equitable.

These investments include:

\$100 million for Rochester's Inner Loop project, which will be used to reconnect disadvantaged neighborhoods to Rochester's downtown. Read more.

<https://www.cityofrochester.gov/news/100m-announced-rochesters-inner-loop-north-transformation-project>

\$15 million for the installation of up to 350 electric vehicle charging stations at SUNY campuses across the state. Read more.

<https://www.wbng.com/2025/01/07/suny-schools-receives-15m-install-up-350-electric-vehicle-charging-stations-across-campus/>

\$9.2 million for the expansion of high-speed internet access in the city of Niagara Falls. Read more.

<https://www.govtech.com/education/higher-ed/niagara-university-gets-9-2m-to-improve-internet-access>

\$3.9 million for the development of bicycle and walking path infrastructure in Central New York. Read more.

https://www.fingerlakes1.com/2025/01/10/3-9-million-peace-trail-funding-promises-boost-for-cayuga-county-tourism/#google_vignette

6. Helping New Yorkers get their retirement benefits

When a constituent needed to secure her court-awarded retirement

benefits, she contacted Kirsten's office for help. After Kirsten's team contacted the Office of Personnel Management on her behalf, the constituent was granted a retroactive payment of over \$50,000.

Individual casework is Kirsten's top priority. If you need help with a federal agency, contact her here.

<https://www.gillibrand.senate.gov/help/help-for-new-yorkers/>



Congressman Pat Ryan Kicks Off Third Annual "Valentines for Vets"

Ryan invites community to drop off cards at his Newburgh office to deliver to veterans in advance of Valentine's Day

WASHINGTON, DC - Today, Congressman Pat Ryan kicked off his third annual "Valentines for Vets" initiative, inviting Hudson Valley community members to send or drop off cards to his Newburgh office to deliver to local veterans and veteran caregivers for Valentine's Day.

"Veterans put their lives on the line to keep us safe and protect our democracy - it's the ultimate expression of love for their fellow Americans and for our country," said Congressman Pat Ryan. "Each year, it's been remarkable to see the community's outpouring of gratitude to our local veterans. I'm looking forward to rallying together again this year to show them how much the Hudson Valley values their heroism and service."

In the program's inaugural year in 2023, Congressman Ryan collected over 9,000 valentines made by Hudson Valley students and community members and hand-delivered them to veterans at Castle Point VA and Vassar Brothers Medical Center. Valentines were also delivered by his office to Hudson River Housing and Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) across the Hudson Valley.

Participants are asked to drop off or mail valentines to Congressman Pat Ryan's Newburgh office at 605 Broadway, Newburgh, New York 12550. Cards should be postmarked no later than February 7, 2025 to ensure timely delivery. For in-person drop-off at the office, please deliver cards by February 11, 2025. If delivering multiple valentines, please include a count of the number of cards on a sheet of paper enclosed with the cards. Please contact Congressman Ryan's district office at 845-443-2930 with any questions or for more information.

Congressman Pat Ryan is a U.S. Army veteran, having served two combat tours in Iraq, and is the first West Point graduate to represent the Academy in the U.S. House of Representatives. He sits on the House Armed Services Committee and has prioritized sponsoring and cosponsoring extensive legislation to deliver relief for veterans, service members, and military families. Ryan has hosted events celebrating veterans and connecting them with resources, including organizing a "Veterans Week of Action" in November 2023, hosting dozens of community partners for his Veterans and Military Families Resource Fair, and utilizing his mobile office, the C.A.R.E.S. Van, for a series of events bringing direct assistance to veterans at Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) across the Hudson Valley throughout the summer of 2024. Ryan recently hosted veterans from across the Hudson Valley for a breakfast in their honor where he recognized three veterans from Ulster, Orange, and Dutchess counties for their outstanding service to the nation and the Hudson Valley community.



Newsletter from Senator Peter Oberacker

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The 2025 Legislative Session is here and I'm proud to return to the Senate Chamber with the same energy and commitment I had when I first took office four short years ago. Every time I walk through these doors, I'm reminded of the great responsibility you've entrusted in me. Our communities face challenges, but we also have incredible opportunities ahead.

I am determined to keep working tirelessly on your behalf to deliver real results for the 51st District. This year, I'm focusing on three key priorities:

- Making life more affordable for our families.

- Protecting our communities.

- Ensuring upstate voices are heard loud and clear.

However, my work isn't just about my priorities-it's about yours. That's why I'm inviting everyone to take my 2025 legislative session questionnaire. It's a quick and important way to make sure your concerns and ideas guide my work in Albany. Please visit my website at www.Oberacker.NYSenate.gov to share your thoughts. Together, we can ensure the government truly serves the people.

Thank you for the privilege of representing you. Let's get to work!

Peter Oberacker
Senator, 51st District

Honoring Two Local Heroes

In the early morning of April 2, 2022, a devastating fire consumed a historic building on Main Street in Worcester threatening lives, nearby structures, and the heart of a vibrant community. First responders from the Worcester Hose Company, Oneonta Fire Department, and neighboring departments acted with remarkable speed and determination racing to contain the inferno.

Among the first to arrive was Fire Protection Specialist Jeff Schoeberl, who, without hesitation, entered the engulfed building through the delta side. Confronted by intense heat, smoke, and advancing flames, Specialist Schoeberl located a disabled man trapped on the second floor.

At that moment, Oneonta Fire Chief Brian Knapp arrived on the scene. Upon learning of the man in distress, Chief Knapp joined Specialist Schoeberl inside the structure, which was already in a critical state. Together, in an extraordinary act of teamwork and bravery, they successfully rescued the individual.

The actions of Specialist Schoeberl and Chief Knapp were nothing short of heroic. They exemplified the selflessness and courage that define the very essence of a first responder-the readiness to put their own lives on the line for the safety of others.

It was my profound honor to present Specialist Schoeberl and Chief Knapp with a New York State Senate commendation, recognizing their extraordinary courage and life-saving efforts. Their heroism is a testament to the strength of our communities and the exceptional individuals who protect them.

To Specialist Schoeberl and Chief Knapp, the 51st District thanks you for your bravery. You are true heroes, and we are forever grateful for your service.

As I return to Albany for the 2025 Legislative Session, I need

your input to help shape my legislative agenda. Please take a moment to share your thoughts so I can effectively debate bills and draft legislation that makes a meaningful difference in our communities.

Click here to take the questionnaire!

<https://www.nysenate.gov/questionnaires/peter-oberacker/senator-oberackers-2025-legislative-questionnaire>

Last Call for Coats!

We're overwhelmed by the incredible support for our first-ever Winter Coat Drive! Thanks to YOU, so many people across the 51st District will be staying warm this winter.

But we're not done yet! The last day to donate coats is Wednesday, January 15th. So, take a peek in your closet and help a family in need.

Find a drop-off location near you!

<https://www.nysenate.gov/newsroom/articles/2024/peter-oberacker/first-annual-51st-senate-district-winter-coat-drive>

Social Media Spotlights National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day!

January 9th is National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, and I ask you to join me in taking a moment to express our deepest gratitude to the brave men and women in uniform who risk everything to protect us.

The 51st District is beyond thankful for your dedication and commitment to keeping our communities safe!

Congratulations, Speaker Johnson!

Congratulations to Speaker of the House Mike Johnson on his reelection to lead the 119th Congress!

It was an honor to host Speaker Johnson in the 51st District last year where I had the pleasure of presenting him with a bottle of maple syrup from one of our outstanding local producers. I hope it adds an extra touch of sweetness to his victory!

January Is

National Blood Donor Month!

January marks the beginning of National Blood Donor Month!

Worldwide, people are in desperate need of donation and one pint could make all the difference. Visit www.RedCross.org to find a donation point.

Senator Peter Oberacker Reacts to Governor Hochul's State of the State Address

ALBANY, 1/14/25 - Following Governor Kathy Hochul's underwhelming State of the State, Senator Peter Oberacker criticized the Governor for her failure to address the root causes of New York's most pressing issues:

"Governor Hochul is like the captain who steers the ship into an iceberg and then wants credit for handing out life jackets.

New Yorkers are fed up with leadership that creates problems, only to offer band-aid solutions wrapped in empty promises. Her State of the State address proves yet again she is more focused on appearances than addressing the real crises facing our communities.

From affordability to public safety, New Yorkers need leadership that anticipates and avoids the dangers-not one that scrambles to clean up its own mess.

Governor Hochul has failed New Yorkers and I will continue to fight for the common sense solutions our state desperately needs."

Senator Peter Oberacker Sworn in for Third Term Representing New York's 51st Senate District



On Wednesday, January 8, Senator Peter Oberacker was sworn in for his third term as the elected representative for New York State's 51st Senate District. The ceremony took place in the Senate Chamber of the New York State Capitol in Albany.

"I am absolutely thrilled to return to the Senate Chamber with the same fire and drive that inspired me to take office four short years ago," said Senator Oberacker. "Each time I walk through these doors, I'm reminded of the incredible trust and responsibility the people of the 51st District have placed in me. It's a privilege and a mission I embrace, ready to fight for our future, together."

Senator Oberacker, who was first elected to the Senate in 2020, represents one of New York's largest state legislative districts including all of Delaware, Otsego, Schoharie, and Sullivan counties as well as portions of Broome, Chenango, and Ulster. During his time in office, he has been a fierce advocate for agriculture, small businesses, community safety, broadband connectivity, and reducing the tax burden on New York's rural residents.

"As I begin my work this year, my focus is to deliver real relief to our communities and safeguard our values that rural New Yorkers hold dear," said Senator Oberacker. "My top priorities are clear: making life more affordable for families, protecting our communities, and ensuring that upstate voices are heard loud and clear."

One State Senator 'Cautiously Optimistic' About Investment in Rail Services

Local officials are reacting following an announcement from Governor Kathy Hochul on renewed investment in the Hudson Valley's rail services.

Plans include funding that would increase capacity, reduce delays, improve safety and cut travel times by up to 15 minutes.

The goal would be to also shorten the Metro-North Hudson line to a less-than 90-minute trip.

State Senator Peter Oberacker says he's cautiously opti-

mistic about the plan but would like to see the state potentially embrace hydrogen-powered rail.

"I have the most SUNY schools of any legislator in New York," Oberacker said. "I can't think of a better way to take those folks, those young folks that are downstate, moving them up through ... Sullivan, Ulster, Delaware, Schoharie, Otsego counties ... all the way to the Binghamton corridor, and to be able to give them a lifeline to come on up and partake in those SUNY institutions."

The proposal includes planning, evaluation and design for a set of rail infrastructure capital improvements between New York City and Poughkeepsie.

Oberacker Visits NCOC to Discuss Critical Education and Transportation Issues

GRAND GORGE - New York State Senator Peter Oberacker visited the Northern Catskills Occupational Center (NCOC), engaging with local education leaders to discuss pivotal issues affecting schools in the region. The visit included a lunch catered by the talented culinary students at NCOC, showcasing the program's excellence and the importance of Career and Technical Education (CTE).

During the visit, Senator Oberacker heard from representatives of ONC BOCES districts regarding key challenges and legislative priorities:

Zero Emission Buses - The group highlighted the burdens of the current mandate requiring districts to transition to zero-emission buses. Leaders advocated for full state funding of this mandate and suggested reforms, including exploring hybrid models, extending implementation timelines, and using transportation studies to determine appropriate transition strategies.

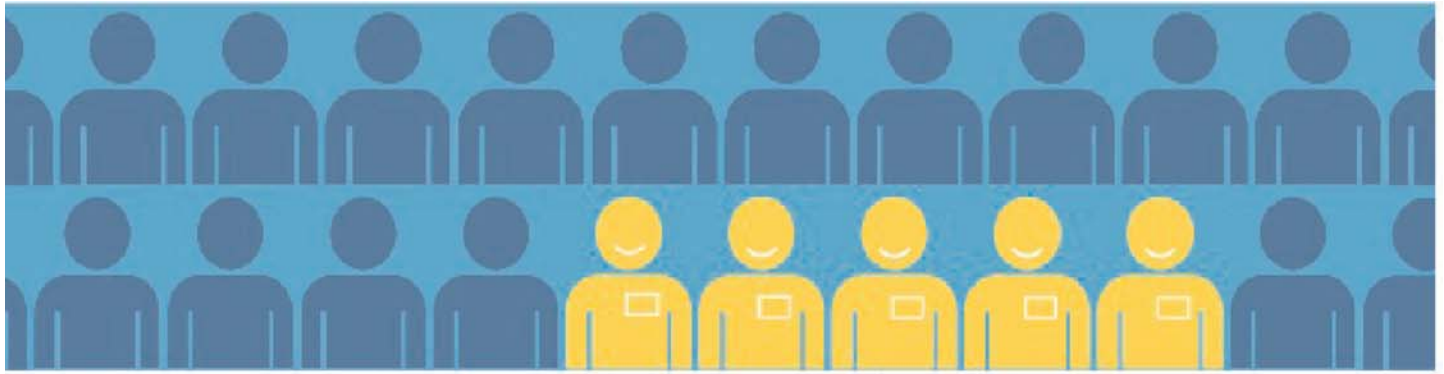
Regionalization/Reorganization Aid - Concerns were raised over the limited definition of reorganization aid, which currently applies only to district mergers. Proposals were made to expand this aid to include innovative regionalization efforts, such as regional high schools and alternative organizational models.

Rockefeller Institute Report - District leaders expressed agreement with most recommendations in the report, including updates to foundation aid calculations and support for economically disadvantaged students. However, they opposed changes related to fund balance use and save harmless reductions.

BOCES Aid - A push was made to expand support for CTE programs to meet growing demand. Leaders backed an increase in the aidable salary limit for CTE instructors from \$30,000 to \$60,000, aligning with NYSED proposals.

Cell Phone Bans and Connectivity - While some cell phone restrictions during the school day were supported, concerns were raised over the lack of infrastructure in rural areas and the administrative burden of enforcing such policies.

211 Waivers - Flexibility in 211 waivers, which allow retirees to fill staffing gaps, was emphasized as vital for addressing regional workforce shortages. Leaders advocated for the continuation of these waivers to support schools and students effectively.



WE'RE LOOKING FOR *Volunteers* TO HELP US OUT!

Maybe you're a student looking for some volunteer hours, a retiree looking to use your skills and passion to help others, or maybe you just LOVE your library and have an extra hour or two each week!

Whoever you are, we appreciate your interest! To apply for volunteer opportunities at the DPL, please complete a volunteer application.

Thank You!



P.O. Box 268 • 328 Main Street • Grahamsville, NY 12740
845-985-7233 • dpl@rcls.org • www.danielpiercelibrary.org

'Catskills Capers' Kicks Off! Meet Local Author of First in a Series of Borscht Belt Mysteries

Hurleyville, NY - The Sullivan County Historical Society will be hosting a book talk by local author Lily Barrish Levner on Saturday, January 25 at 2 p.m. at the Sullivan County Museum in Hurleyville. Refreshments will be served. Admission is free, though donations are always appreciated.

In "Banquets & Bootleg Bounty," author Lily Barrish Levner transports readers to the summer of 1944 at the Concord Hotel. She pays homage to her paternal grandparents by naming her new novel's main characters Dotty and Abe after them.

"I was lucky to be alive during the tail end of my grandfather's career as the maître d' of Kutsher's. My grandmother had retired as a waitress by then," said Barrish Levner.

Those characters will be the mainstays of the entire series, the first four books having already been planned out. The initial novel is the beginning of Dotty and Abe's careers in the resort industry and involves an associate of Murder, Inc. Book 2 jumps ten years to 1954 and the Golden Era in the mountains. Book 3 skips ahead to 1969 and the Woodstock Festival. Book 4 is set during the couple's retirement years in Delray Beach, Florida.

Packed with nostalgic charm, Book 1 honors a time of lavish dining rooms, top-notch entertainment, bustling hotels, and vibrant bungalow colonies. Stay tuned for the further adventures of Dotty and Abe when Book 2 of the Catskills Capers series is published in the summer of 2025.

"Like a good meal in a top Catskill resort, Banquets & Bootleg Bounty is scrumptious and filling, and will have you waiting anxiously for the next serving," said John Conway, Sullivan County Historian.

The paperback can be purchased at the book talk.

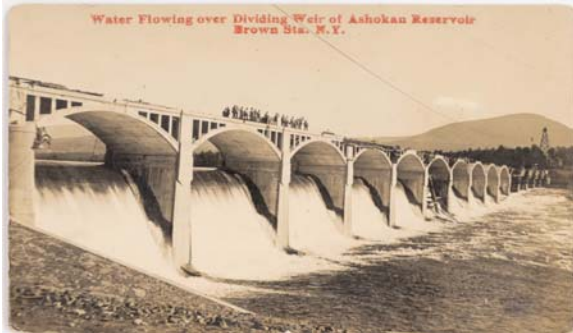
About the Author

Barrish Levner has a BA in English/Creative Writing and a Master's in Library and Information Science. For the past decade, she has been a copy desk researcher at Bloomberg Businessweek while working on her novel and contributing monthly articles to the Hurleyville Sentinel. She lives in the Catskills with her husband and their dog, Gus. The magic of the mountains still influences her work.

UC Clerk's Archives Publishes New Digital Collections

Acting Ulster County Clerk Taylor Bruck proudly announces the launch of its first digital collections on New York Heritage Digital Collections, offering free public access to historic treasures. As a new member of the Southeastern New York Library Resources Council, the Archives division of the Clerk's office has been busy digitizing and describing a selection of historic images and publications to distribute freely on this statewide platform.

Three collections are now available as of this press release. These include a selection of 245 images of the Ashokan Reservoir during Construction, courtesy of historian John Duda, and a small selection of images showing Shipyards on the Rondout Creek.



"Photographic postcard showing workmen standing on the partially completed deck of the fifteen-arch bridge of the dividing weir of the Ashokan Reservoir watching water pour over the weir into the lower basin. John Duda Collection."

Notably, a complete run of all ten volumes of Benjamin Brink's *Olde Ulster Magazine*, a history publication produced between 1905 and 1914, has also been made available in its entirety online for the first time.

"The publication of these first three collections represents a milestone for our office and for the County Archives program" stated Acting County Clerk Taylor Bruck, "our staff has been hard at work identifying and preparing materials for several years with the end goal of getting them online. Thanks to Southeastern New York Library Resources Council, we were finally able to start contributing scans of some of our most fascinating collection materials to a statewide platform where the public can enjoy and study these materials free of charge."

The late Hon. Nina Postupack, 45th Ulster County Clerk, laid the foundation for the commencement of this project. Her forethought in accepting and preserving the photo morgue of the Kingston Daily Freeman was an unprecedented and historic decision for the Clerk's Office. The decision challenged our Archives staff to develop a system to digitize and catalog the collection, while working to find a solution for simple public access to what will eventually be a collection of over 85,000 images.

"I know folks have heard a lot about the Freeman collection recently as well as the amazing collection of Gene Dauner now in our care" stated Acting Clerk Bruck, "this new venue is where you will need to keep an eye out as we start to publish selections of both these remarkable collections over the course of this winter."

We invite the public to explore these newly digitized collections free of charge at <https://nyheritage.org/organizations/ulster-county-archives>

For further information, please contact the Ulster County Archives at archives@co.ulster.ny.us or by phone at 845-340-3415 weekdays between 9:00am and 5:00pm. Additionally, stay connected with us on Facebook for updates and news



"The front cover of an edition of Benjamin Brink's *Olde Ulster Magazine*, newly available online through the Ulster County Clerk's Office."



"The hull for rescue tug ATR-82 slips sideways down the ways on Rondout Creek producing a large wave as onlookers view the launch from high in the background on the Wurts Street Bridge."

INSIDE INSIGHTS

THE NEWSLETTER OF
THE SULLIVAN COUNTY MANAGER



2025

WHAT WE KNOW, AND WHAT WE'LL FIND OUT

BY JOSHUA POTOSEK, COUNTY MANAGER

As I write this, 2025 has just dawned, as fresh as the snow that's gently falling outside my window. The snowfall looks beautiful, but I know it won't last. What will follow? Hard to tell. While we can count on winter eventually giving way to spring, will that come with blizzards and floods, or with soft rain and light wind? Like the weather, Sullivan County experiences cycles. And they can be just as hard to predict as seasonal changes. Times of plenty and times of pain don't start at some appointed hour. That said, we can anticipate change - in fact, we're constantly looking for it in County government.

I know, for example, that broadband Internet access will begin spreading to every corner of the County in 2025 (read the story inside). And I know it will change the residential and business landscape all around us.

I also know that Move Sullivan will expand our routes to Livingston Manor, Roscoe and Jeffersonville in 2025, and we'll soon know how transformative that will be for people living and working in those communities.

I know that we're tackling our housing affordability crisis with real money, not just words, in 2025. And I know we're going to use those millions of dollars to change lives, bring families together, and keep our younger generation here longer.

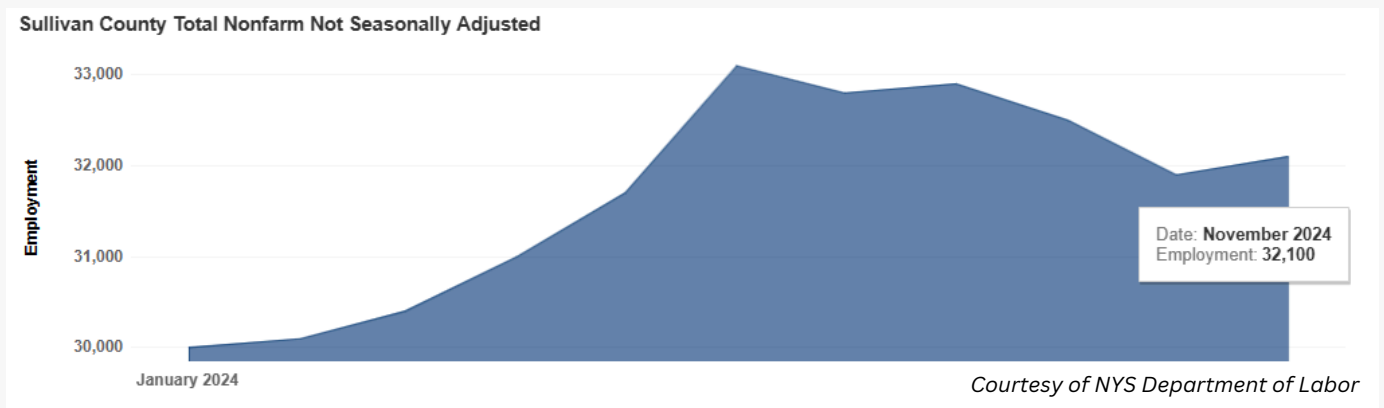
Unfortunately, I also know our revenues aren't growing as fast as they have. As 2025 progresses, I'll be paying attention to all these concerns and more - and if you're reading this, I'm glad you are too!

WHAT YOU'LL FIND IN THIS ISSUE:

WE LEAD THE STATE
IN JOB GROWTH - 2

MAKING THE SWITCH
TO SULLIVANNY.GOV - 3

PREPPING FOR ONLINE
THREATS - 4



The amount of people employed in Sullivan County has significantly increased just this past year alone, rising from 30,000 in January to over 32,000 in November. The trend in the above graph indicates we’re sustaining much of that increase into our “off-season” months.

WE’RE A TOP PERFORMER STATEWIDE IN JOBS

For the past three years, I’ve watched in amazement as Sullivan County continues to dominate job growth month after month, often grabbing the #1 spot in all of New York State. Just this past November, in fact, we once again had the highest rate of year-over-year job growth of any county or city Statewide - a full percentage point above #2-ranked Cortland County.

Tourism and hospitality jobs dominate, of course, but our economy is more diverse than that. Financial services and logging/construction trades also saw appreciable growth.

Together with our economic development agencies, we aim to continue this trend by attracting livable wage-paying companies across industry sectors.

LEGISLATORS ADOPT ‘25 COUNTY BUDGET

Via an 8-1 vote in December, legislators approved the 2025 Sullivan County Budget.

The \$303 million budget comes with a 2.5% tax levy increase to cover general cost increases and the new EMS fly car system but does not propose incurring new debt.

The budget includes \$2 million for a Housing Trust Fund to address the housing crisis in the County, plus \$65,000 to continue our popular local workforce development partnership with BOCES, whereby area residents can learn skills at no cost to them. The budget also sets aside funds to negotiate expiring labor contracts.

MOVING FORWARD WITH OUR BROADBAND PARTNER

On the heels of receiving the largest grant in our history - \$30 million from the State and Feds - we’ve inked a 10-year agreement with Archtop Fiber to provide high-speed Internet access to the underserved/unserved areas of Sullivan County.

The specifics of the deal are awaiting approval by the State, but generally speaking, it’s an agreement for us to lease the broadband infrastructure (wires, routers, antennae and other equipment) to Archtop Fiber for the next decade. Archtop will handle the installation, billing and technical aspects.

We don’t want to be in the business of providing this service - just in giving it a jumpstart, considering how much of the County does not have access to broadband.

While we await a couple final approvals, Archtop has the cabling and other equipment ready to be installed, and I expect that various parts of the County will see service - both wired and wireless - offered by the end of this year.

WHERE TO FIND HELP WHEN YOU'RE SHIVERING

Put simply, if it's a potentially life-threatening emergency, call 911.

If it's that someone's in need of heat or shelter but not in immediate life-threatening jeopardy, they should call the non-emergency line of their local police department or the Sheriff's Office (845-794-7100). Police have the phone number of our on-call Temporary Assistance housing specialist, and they use it regularly.

Our warming centers are open from 8 p.m.-8 a.m. every night through April: St. John Street Episcopal Church in Monticello and Liberty United Methodist Church on North Main Street in Liberty.

Longer-term, if someone is concerned for their ongoing safety because they cannot afford adequate supplies or to heat their homes, they can contact Social Services at 845-292-0100 during normal business hours to request SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) or HEAP (Home Energy Assistance Program) benefits.

Additionally, those over 50 can reach out to our Office for the Aging (845-807-0241), and anyone who is a veteran or an immediate family member of a veteran can call our Veterans Service Agency at 845-807-0233. Each office has specific services just for those folks.

Don't forget too that the County has maintained its Community Assistance Center since the COVID pandemic, which can be reached at 845-807-0925 during the week. They can help with a variety of immediate needs, including food and supplies.

USE 'SULLIVANNY.GOV' - NOT 'SULLIVANNY.US'

By Federal mandate, we have to switch our website and email addresses from "sullivanyny.us" to "sullivanyny.gov."

The change is already afoot - you can visit sullivanyny.gov and find our website, and you can email any of us using the .gov address and you'll reach us!

The old .us addresses will stop working on December 31, 2025, but I'd encourage you to start updating your email lists and browser favorites now.

RETURN OF THE ACADEMY

I'm pleased to confirm that the Emergency Services Youth Academy our Public Safety Division debuted last summer is coming back this summer.

In its inaugural, weeklong run last July, seven teenagers were introduced to all sorts of jobs - both volunteer and paid - in emergency response, from police and medical helicopter piloting to bomb disposal and search & rescue. They talked with local people and regional leaders who are real-life firefighters, paramedics, pilots, police officers and nurses.

We're hoping to have a larger turnout of teens (ages 14-16) at this year's free-to-attend Academy, which will run from July 21-25. If you know of someone who may be interested, let them know to give us a call at 845-807-0509 or email scesyva@sullivanyny.gov!

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR TWO NEWEST LEADERS!

I'm pleased to announce we've recently hired two talented professionals to oversee two of our most public-facing offices:

- Dr. Jessie Moore, most recently of Garnet Health, is our Public Health Director, leading 60 staff in providing education, vaccination and



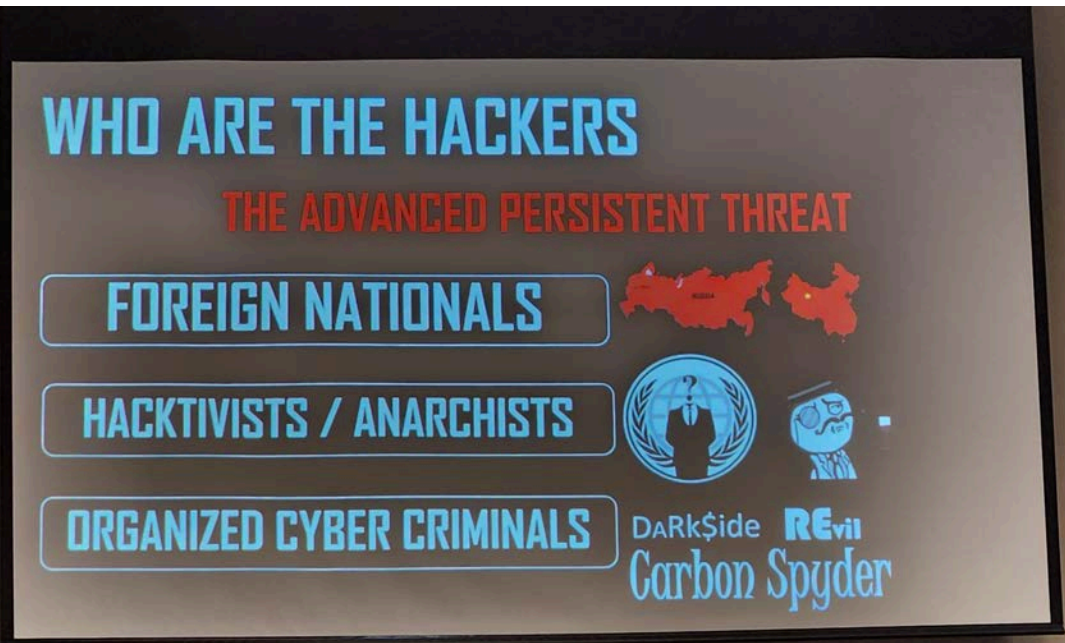
home health services to residents & visitors.

- Monika Roosa, a Wurtsboro resident, is our new RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) Director, overseeing more than 100 volunteers who daily fan out across the County to fill a wide variety of important needs.



ON GUARD

In collaboration with the NYS Division of Homeland Security, our Information Technology Services Division hosted an informative, extremely useful and very timely Cybersecurity Summit at the Kartrite in December. We learned that we face nearly a billion threats to County digital assets every month, and how we all can play a role in protecting data.



TAKE A BOUGH

The County Museum in Hurleyville is a treasure trove of history that's worth visiting any time of the year, but every December, its auditorium glitters with lights, tinsel and themed holiday exhibits. Even our Office of Parks, Recreation and Beautification (which oversees the facility) got in on the fun this year with an outdoors-themed tree (seen at left)! Other themes included local history, gingerbread men and Hanukkah.



New to the Daniel Pierce Library this year...

Introducing
Pages & Percs

Join us for a brand new experience at the DPL
Now you can sip, relax and read all in one place.

Get cozy and caffeinated while you enjoy a delicious cup of coffee and browse our book sale selection, located in our beautiful 1902 Room.

You can:

Enjoy a fresh cup of coffee from Happy Belly for \$2. Choose the perfect coffee pod for yourself at our front desk.

Pick out a book to buy and take home or dive into it right here.

Sit back, sip your coffee and enjoy a peaceful moment.

Whether you're looking for your next page-turner or just need a break, Pages and Percs is your perfect spot to relax and recharge.

Enjoy!

Homeschooling Group

4th Tuesday of each month

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

at the Daniel Pierce Library

We invite all homeschooling families to join a self-guided group that meets monthly at the Daniel Pierce Library.

Together this group will share lessons, network, set up future field trips, have various guest speakers and programs.

You can also... borrow books, check out DVD's, access the internet, research online databases and utilize library space! (If you have a RCLS library card).

Please join in, the possibilities are endless!

**Text or call Dana
for more information:
845 707 – 2489**



**Beginning
September
24th**



WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH A Daniel Pierce Library Card?
Explore everything your library card gives you!



Read any way you like
Printed books, magazines, and newspapers, e-books, and audiobooks



Listen at home or on the go
CDs and music to stream or download



Get online and get going
Free WiFi

Borrow movies, documentaries, TV series and more

Learn something new 24/7

Learn a new language: HLL with Rosetta Stone

Online classes and research materials ready when you are

Download the Libby App

Borrow instead of buy

Check out books, magazines, CDs, DVDs and audiobooks from all 47 RCLS libraries

Download the RCLS Gateway App

Entertain your kids – or yourself

Passes to Mohawk Preserve and the Jim and Ina Valleys Museum

Unlimited access to thousands of digital comics, graphic novels and manga

There's even more to explore with your library card:

- ▶ Online programming, databases and research materials
- ▶ Export reading recommendations
- ▶ Internet access and computers to use

SIGN UP TODAY! It's FREE and easy!
Visit the Daniel Pierce Library for more details.

SHARE THE NUMBER

SPREAD THE WORD

CALL OR TEXT

988



CHAT

988LIFELINE.ORG

There is hope.



988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE

VOICESUNITED4CHANGE'S VIRTUAL

YOUTH SUPPORT GROUP

JOIN US!

Join us for a peer led, mental health, lesson based virtual support group for teens ages 13-17. Together we learn about our mental health and do an activity together. This group is completely free to join, and all supplies for the activity will be sent to your home. Space is limited for each group!

Contact Rebekah at rumarbashar@asfl.org for more information.

EVERY 1ST & 3RD

WEDNESDAY

@ 6:30 PM





VOICESUNITED4CHANGE'S VIRTUAL

PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

JOIN US!




Join us for a peer led virtual support group for parents of children with mental health challenges. Together we have time for conversation and an activity. This group is completely free to join, and all supplies for the activity will be sent to your home. Space is limited for each group!

Contact Anne-Marie at afreitas@asfl.org for more information.

EVERY 2ND & 4TH

WEDNESDAY

@ 6:30 PM

Sullivan County Intervention Line for Parents and Teens

Are you a parent struggling with your family?
Are you a teen having problems at home?

Help is available now!

We are here anytime you need to talk.

Give us a call or send us a text and someone will always be there to listen and help you deal with your situation.



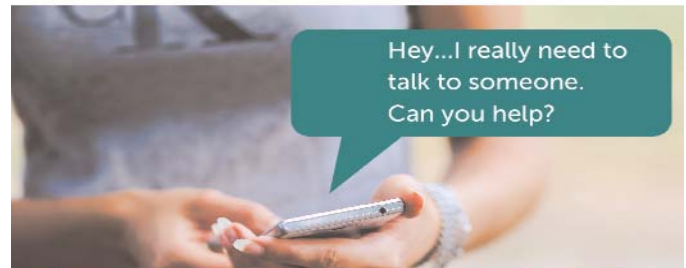
Text 845-372-1817
Call 866-372-2336

Calls and texts are answered 24/7

A program of the DRC

Sullivan County Text For Teens

Monday - Friday
4pm-10pm
Saturday & Sunday
5pm-12am



Hey...I really need to talk to someone. Can you help?



Free & confidential support
Someone who can listen and help
Text as often as you need!

We're Here to Listen:
Bullying - Eating Disorders -
Self-Harm - Homeless/Runaway -
Pregnancy - Problems at Home -
Relationship Issues - LGBTQ+ -
Divorce - School Issues -
Substance Use -
Physical/Mental/Sexual Health -
and more!

Text "Start" to:
845-637-9486

OFF HOURS:
Call 1-888-750-2266, option 2



Text for Teens is supported by a Grant of the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation



Rewarding lives. Healthy communities.

COVID-19 Vaccines Save Lives

Who will you protect?



Friends

Amigos

Family

¿A quien protegerás?

Get the facts.



Familia

Obtenga los hechos.

Talk to your healthcare provider about the COVID vaccine.



Comunidad

Hable con su proveedor de salud sobre la vacuna del COVID-19.

#VaccinateSullivan

For more information, visit www.sullivanyny.us



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Sullivan County
Public Health Services

GET SIGNED UP TODAY FOR OUR UPCOMING CERTIFICATION CLASS !!

Contact:

Alyssa Wowk
(845) 645-6544

awowk@chowc.net

Sullivan County Department of Social Services is looking for families who can help fulfill the **DESPERATE NEED** for ages **8-18!**



FOSTER HOMES NEEDED!



Vet 2 Vet

Caffeine &

Camaraderie



Every Monday



10:00AM - 11:00AM

Come join us along with other Vets to share some coffee and some stories.

**Place: 309 East Broadway
Monticello, NY 12701**

**Call 845-794-4228 for more
info, ask for Matt or Vinny**



Action Toward Independence

Presents

Women's Empowerment Group



Join us on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of
each month

from 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Discuss topics impacting women today, in a safe and judgement free environment. Opportunities to exchange ideas and share life experiences. Attend educational workshops and learn from guest speakers.

Be Inspired ~ Be Empowered ~ Be You

Location:

126 Seward Ave

Middletown, NY 10940

For More Information Call

845.343.4284

*Please RSVP
Seats are limited*




Eligibility & Pre-Registration is required.



Find us on
Facebook



Veteran Peer Support



**Vet 2 Vet offers
Veteran Peer Support.
Call to speak with our Veteran
Peer Advocates.
We didn't fight alone while
we served, we don't need
to fight alone at home.**

Vet 2 Vet



**Sullivan County
NEW YORK**

NYC Joseph P. Dwyer Peer Support Program

Call or email us to register!

845-794-4228

vet2vet@atitoday.org

309 E Broadway Suite A

Monticello, NY 12701

HELP WANTED

Part time Bookkeeper
Call 845-321-1919

Blooming Green Lawn and Landscape Sevice
Part time/Full time work.
Salary based on experience.
Call: 845-665-3348
or 945-985-0516

Classified Ads
Only \$5.00 a week!



Sell your handcrafted items online from your own little virtual shop at the **Gnome Home Virtual Mall**



Interested?
Send an email to:
gnomehomeinc@yahoo.com

... or if you just want to have some 'gnome made' fun..

Visit the gnome's virtual on-line local shop at:

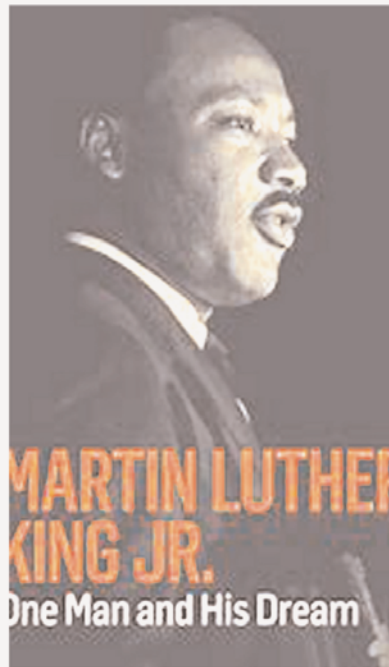
<http://www.gnomehomeinc.com>



"KNARF'S CLASSIC MOVIE

AVAILABLE ON LIVE TV
MONDAY 01/17/2022 9:00-11:00 AM
SPECTRUM CHANNEL 128 REELZHD
<https://www.reelz.com/show/martin-luther-king-jr-one-man-dream>

**IN HONOR OF ONE OF THE
WORLDS GREATEST
HUMANITARIANS
MARTIN LUTHER
KING JR
"ONE MAN AND HIS
DREAM"**



On April 4th, 1968 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated —a catastrophic moment that shook the world. 2018 marks the 50th anniversary of the tragic event. A two-hour documentary special, *Martin Luther King Jr.: One Man and His Dream*, hosted by Sir Trevor McDonald explores the life and legacy of one of the most influential people to ever live and continues to influence modern politics decades after his death.

According to McDonald, King's famous "I Have a Dream" speech ...depicted the civil rights leader's "dream of black and white children playing together; people of all races around the same table." To quote super model Naomi Campbell speaking of King, "He was fearless."



(Contd. Pg. 65)

Answer to last week's Trivia Question: Baseball

This weeks' Trivia question:

What film was the first of the James Bond movies?

(From Pg. 64)

KNARF'S CLASSIC MOVIE

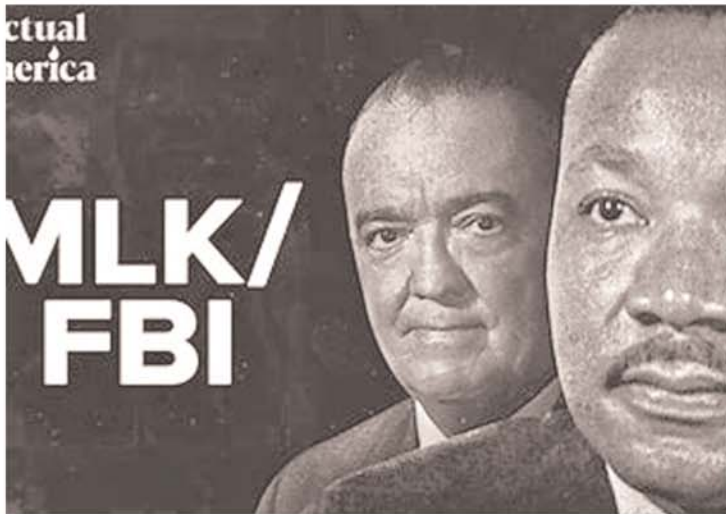
AVAILABLE ON YOUR FAVORITE MOVIE CHANNEL

**THE MURDER OF ONE OF WORLD'S
GREATEST HUMANITARIANS
IN THE DOCUMENTARY
MLK/FBI**

(TV-PG · 2020 · 1hr 44min · Documentary)

"ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR."

<https://kinginstitute.stanford.edu/encyclopedia/assassination-martin-luther-king-jr>



From the March on Washington in 1963 up until his assassination in 1968, the FBI engaged in an intense campaign to discredit Martin Luther King Jr. and his work. Film director Sam Pollard chronicles those efforts in the new documentary, *MLK/FBI*.

**FBI Chief Calls Martin Luther King
'The Most Notorious Liar in Country'**

WASHINGTON
FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover will remember that day in 1964 when Martin Luther King Jr. called him "the most notorious liar in the country." The statement, which was widely reported, led Hoover to write an 18-page memorandum to the nation's top law enforcement officials. Hoover, who was then in charge of the FBI, said that King's words were "a direct challenge to the FBI's integrity and to the respectability of the federal government."



"The first fear that FBI director, J. Edgar Hoover had was that King was going to align himself with the Communist Party, which J. Edgar Hoover was obsessed with destroying," Pollard says.

Pollard's documentary is based on newly declassified files obtained through the Freedom of Information Act, along with restored archival film footage. It shows the government's extensive targeting of King and his associates in the 1960s.



The FBI campaign against King began with wiretaps, but quickly ballooned. When wiretaps revealed that King was having extramarital affairs, the FBI shifted their focus to uncover all evidence of his infidelity by bugging and taping him in his hotel rooms and by paying informants to spy on him. Eventually, the FBI penned and sent King an anonymous letter, along with some of their tapes, suggesting that he should kill himself.

According to McDonald in *Martin Luther King Jr.: One Man and His Dream*, the civil rights leader "dreamed of black and white children playing together. People of all races around the same table."



*Stay safe, and stay well
Knarf Odnamoc
Gnome*